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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## World

**Thatcher's legal woes:** Sir Mark Thatcher left court Friday expressing confidence he had cleared away suspicions he had any role in a foiled coup plot featuring wealthy European financiers, soldiers of fortune and an African dictatorship.

"It is patently clear that I had nothing to do with financing any coup in Equatorial Guinea," the only son of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told reporters outside a court in South Africa, his home since 1995.

**North Korea energy supply:** South Korea will start sending electricity across its heavily armed border next month to power a joint-venture industrial park in rival North Korea despite heightened nuclear tensions, officials said Friday.

On Friday, officials reconfirmed their commitment to the symbolic Kaesong project, saying the government-funded Korea Electric Power Corp. will start transmitting 15,000 kilowatts of electricity to the industrial complex in early March.

**North Korea nuclear program:** The United States and China agree that North Korea must end its nuclear ambitions and resolve the standoff through six-nation talks, Washington's top envoy on the issue said Friday, as efforts to restart the negotiations gained momentum.

Revisiting the stalled talks has taken on greater urgency since North Korea's explosive but unconfirmed declaration last week that it has become a nuclear power. The talks involve the two Koreas, the United States, China, Russia and Japan.

## Business

**Ex-WorldCom chief's trial:** The star witness against former WorldCom chief Bernard Ebbers testified in New York on Thursday that a desire to meet Wall Street expectations eclipsed his own obligation to follow the law.

Scott Sullivan, who was finance chief under Ebbers, said he knew adjusting the books was illegal but did it anyway because "I thought we would make it through."

Weingarten spent more than eight hours questioning Sullivan in his attempt to convince jurors that Sullivan, not Ebbers, was behind the \$11 billion accounting fraud at WorldCom.

## States

**Private planes near Washington:** Lawmak-



JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

**Misawa commissary spree:** Contestants competed Friday at Misawa Air Base, Japan, for a chance at commissary shopping sprees worth \$500, \$300 and \$200 by trying to guess grocery prices. From left to right: Janna Turner, Senior Airman Gina Shimmers, 1st Lt. Dan Schwendeman and Staff Sgt. Jason Stone hold up their price tickets. Evelyn Brown, a military spouse, was the overall winner. Tina Hall and Schwendeman were the first and second runners-up, respectively. New Car Sales and Misawa's commissary sponsored the contest.

ers from areas near the nation's capital have prodded federal officials to reopen Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport to private planes since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks without success, so one senator introduced a bill Thursday to speed up the process.

"I've been patient," said Sen. George Allen, R-Va. "The point of the matter is, nothing has happened, and I find that unacceptable."

National Airport was once a major destination for private flights, and officials estimate the ban on general aviation is costing the industry \$50 million each year.

**Robert Blake's murder trial:** Robert Blake had his head in his hands and was moaning the night his wife was slain, a fire captain testified, saying the actor's behavior was normal for someone involved in a traumatic event.

Kevin Bailey, a 24-year veteran of the Los Angeles Fire Department, whose team was first to respond to the report of an assault near Vitello's Restaurant on the night of May 4, 2001, said team members found Bonny Lee Bakley shot and Blake sitting on a curb.

**Teen's banned yearbook photo:** A hearing has been set for next month for a New Hampshire teenager suing to have his shotgun in his high school yearbook portrait.

Lawyer Penny Dean, who represents Blake Douglas and his family, said she requested a speedy hearing ahead of the April 15 deadline for the Londonderry High School yearbook.

## Military

**Failed ballistic missile test:** An experimental ballistic missile interceptor failed to launch during a test Monday because of a problem with the retracting arms that hold it erect in the silo, the senior U.S. military man said Thursday.

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told members of Congress that a tiny switch controlling the arms had failed to close. The failure signaled that the arms had not come clear of the missile.

The failed test was the second since December for the multibillion dollar national missile defense program.

From The Associated Press

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# 4th person held in death of Hansen sailor

BY DAVID ALLEN  
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A fourth person is being held in the Joint Forces Brig in connection with the death of a 3rd Dental Battalion sailor Feb. 4 on Camp Hansen.

A Marine spokesman said the fourth suspect, identified only as a woman stationed on Camp Hansen, was taken into custody Wednesday. The other three suspects, two men and a woman apprehended a week ago, were assigned to the Camp Hansen

Dental Clinic.

All four suspects were apprehended by personnel from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the Marine Provost Marshal's Office and are being held in the brig on Camp Hansen, according to a Marine press release.

The body of Seaman Adam J. Palecco, 21, was discovered about 1210 a.m. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The nature of Palecco's wounds and all other details of the ongoing investigation are being withheld by Marine officials in order to "preserve the integrity of the in-

vestigation," said 1st Lt. Eric Tausch, spokesman for Marine Consolidated Public Affairs on Okinawa.

"Information on the suspects will be released if and when charges are preferred," said Tausch. "Suspects must be arraigned within 120 days of being confined."

Palecco was the adopted son of Bonnie and Raymond Palecco of Hackettstown, N.J. He joined the Navy soon after graduating from Hackettstown High School in 2002. Classmates told a reporter for the local newspaper, the Easton Ex-

press-Times, that Palecco had some minor disciplinary problems in school but saw the Navy as a way to get his life back on track.

"He was an outgoing kid, a great personality," Frank Rybicki told the Express-Times reporter. He said Palecco also was known as a bit of a loner throughout high school.

"Then he got in the Navy and he felt like he belonged," Rybicki said.

E-mail David Allen at:  
allend@psstripes.osd.mil

## Military getting strict on importing bootlegs

### Japanese more lenient on copies for personal use

BY ERIK SLAVIN  
Stars and Stripes

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — As a military customs inspector, Staff Sgt. Rickie Jones confiscates all of the "Goochi" bags, unreleased movies and \$5 copies of Windows XP that come through the air terminal at Kadena.

Until Feb. 1, Jones and other inspectors gave those items to Japanese customs officials for destruction.

Shortly before that day, they received a surprising e-mail from the Okinawa regional customs office stating that single, "personal use" copies of bootleg items are legal to bring into Japan.

As a result, servicemembers and other personnel who fell under the status of forces agreeement who entered Japan through Kadena Air Base between Feb. 1 and Thursday were allowed to import as many bootleg single copies of movies, apparel and other merchandise as they wanted.

On Thursday, after Jones discussed the issue further with 18th Security Forces Squadron Lt. Col. David Abernethy, the policy changed again. Since the Japanese government will not destroy bootleg items meant for personal use, Kadena customs will destroy the merchandise themselves.

Importing copyright-infringing merchandise is still illegal under U.S. laws, so that's the standard we're going with," Jones said.

The legal standing for destroying the personal-use copies comes from U.S. Forces Japan Policy Letter 4-3, which makes importing bootleg items illegal for USFJ personnel and their dependents. The letter also states:

"In cases where U.S. law differs from Japanese laws, the stricter standard is applied."

The law applies to SOFA-status personnel who fly into commercial Japanese terminals as well, but it's unlikely they'll receive the same scrutiny from Japanese inspectors unless they have multiple copies of the same item.

For example, under Japanese law a tourist can bring back bootleg copies of every CD on the Billboard Top 40 list; however, that person cannot bring back two copies of the same Britney Spears album, or they will be destroyed.

"If a tourist bought a copied CD or DVD ... overseas, solely for his personal use, the current copyright laws do not ban him from bringing it into Japan," said Osamu Fukuyama, an Okinawa customs spokesman.

"However, we do not encourage anyone to buy copied goods."

### Bootleg traffic rises

The increase in passenger traffic between Japan and South Asian nations ravaged by the Dec. 26 tsunami created potential for an increase in copyright-infringing items pouring into Japan.

Just last month, Kadena customs inspectors confiscated 108 DVDs from passengers aboard one flight coming back from a tsunami relief mission.

"[Servicemembers] had some down time there, so we knew what was coming," said Kadena Staff Sgt. Christopher Sykes. "If anything, I was surprised we didn't have more."

Military customs inspectors in Japan check all passengers and

crew coming from 12 "high-risk" countries, including China and most of South Asia. Inspectors are required to check 10 to 30 percent of inspected baggage coming from other countries into Japan, though they may check more at their discretion.

### Warning signs

Military customs inspectors throughout Japan and South Korea concentrate most on finding illegal drugs, weapons and pornography.

They'll also ask a lot of questions if they suspect something doesn't seem right with a passenger's merchandise.

Jones remembers a junior enlisted servicemember flying into Kadena Air Base from South Korea with \$1,800 worth of Louis Vuitton bags.

"He said he bought them back home in Louisiana. On an E-3's salary?" Jones asked. The bags were turned over to the Japanese government for review. In theory, suspected knock-off bags could be returned if Japanese inspectors declare them genuine.

"I've never seen anyone give anything back," Jones said.

Passengers who doubt customs inspectors destroy their merchandise are sometimes invited to destroy the objects themselves, he said.

"They think you're going to keep the item, so we let them destroy their bags or snap their CDs in half if it makes them feel better," Jones said.

Chiyoami Sumida and Jennifer Swan contributed to this report.

E-mail Erik Slavin at:  
slavin@psstripes.osd.mil



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

U.S. Air Force Capt. Michael Lane browses DVD movies for sale at a market in Korat, Thailand, in 2004. Military customs officials in Japan and Okinawa are once again prohibiting the import of illegal movies and music into the country.

## Corrections

■ A photo caption in Saturday's editions should have said Chubu Centrai International Airport, Japan's newest international airport, is located in central Japan, near the city of Nagoya.

■ A Feb. 13 article on the Your Money page contained incorrect information about Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. DIC is administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs and is paid to eligible dependents of veterans who died in service or whose death resulted from a service-connected condition. The amount of the DIC benefit is not calculated based on a veteran's salary or rank. Visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) for more information.

## A special song



Petty Officer 3rd Class Amanda Leslie, assigned to the U.S. 7th Fleet Band, performs during a community service project at the Saint Francis Xavier School for Children with Special Needs in Goa, India, while a young fan tries to get into the act.

The 7th Fleet staff and sailors from the fleet flagship USS Blue Ridge were in Goa on a scheduled port visit from Tuesday to Friday.

RICK CHERNITZER  
Courtesy of the U.S. Navy



# 459th Squadron returns to Yokota

## C-21 jets flew back-to-back missions for tsunami relief

BY JULIANA GITTLER  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — For a unit that never deploys, the relief effort for South Asia after the Dec. 26 tsunami turned into a 45-day expedition and added members of the 459th Airlift Squadron to the pages of history.

Two of the squadron's C-21 Lear jets flew a total of 125 hours during 58 sorties in back-to-back missions to the region.

The jets carried 31 dignitaries, including Combined Task Force Commander Lt. Gen. Robert Blackman, into a list of countries and unfamiliar airstrips.

The final aircraft and crew returned to Yokota last week after one of its most unique missions.

The squadron of 40 is itself unique in several ways.

It may be the only Air Force squadron that includes not just two types of aircraft but two completely different platforms: UH-1 Huey helicopters and C-21 airplanes.

The squadron's mission — transporting distinguished visitors in Tokyo and around Japan and South Korea — means it doesn't usually travel far.

"This is not a deployable unit," said Maj. Thad Hunkins, director of operations.

Except, that is, during one of the largest relief missions in history.

Squadron personnel were more than a little surprised to get their deployment orders over the holiday break.

Helicopter pilot Capt. Joshua Hampton came home from leave and found he was leaving for Indonesia the next day.

It made sense: he lived in Indonesia for nine years and speaks the language.

He served as a liaison for the Air Force's Forward commander. He also translated for Navy corpsmen flying into remote areas and worked with the Indonesian military.

The pilots encountered many surprises on the trip.

Instead of flying into secure, safe and well-established airstrips in Japan and South Korea, they arrived in Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka not completely sure what to expect.

Pilots had maps and charts faxed to them so they could tell where they were going.

They communicated with air traffic control and the rear using satellite phones and relied on calls to Hawaii for local weather reports.

Maj. Rich Ficken, assistant director of operations, was the first to fly into the region.

Usually sleepy rural airstrips, like at Banda Aceh, overnight became major hubs for cargo and people.

The chaos taxed the resources of the few people there; the airstrip went from a handful of flights a day before the disaster to hundreds of planes a day.

The backup left many aircraft waiting in holding patterns. Larger planes with more fuel could wait, but a tiny C-21 can only fly so far and long.

"A very different environment, it's not like going to Kadena," Ficken said.

"You just have to be flexible."

Despite rigorous flying schedules, the 20-year-old planes had no mechanical problems.

Besides those who traveled to South Asia, others prepared in case the squadron's helicopters were called for.

The squadron built ramps to load the Hueys onto large cargo planes in case they were needed, said squadron commander Lt. Col. Michael "Stew" Smith.

And the squadron continued its mission in Japan.

"It was nothing but a great learning experience even for those who didn't go," Smith said.

E-mail Juliana Gittler at: gittlerj@pstripes.osd.mil

**C-21 Lear jets, belonging to the 459th Airlift Squadron, sit in a hangar at Yokota Air Base, Japan. Two of the squadron's C-21s deployed to South Asia for Operation Unified Assistance, flying 125 hours over 58 sorties.**

JIM SCHULTZ/Stars and Stripes

## Misawa spouses learn ABC's of military life

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Two months into her husband's first assignment, Barbara Max is learning that despite coming from an Air Force family, she still has much to learn about military life.

"A lot of the stuff, like the acronyms, I have no clue," she said.

"Is a shirt and first sergeant the same thing? And what does 'smart casual' mean?"

That's what Heartlink is for. Max and 13 other wives of airman, sailors and civilians at Misawa attended the six-hour orientation class Friday at the Tohoku Enlisted Club, where they brushed up on military jargon, protocol and etiquette and learned what base services are available to help with an array of needs, from financial to legal.

"It's to let them know how the military works; otherwise it can seem overwhelming and confusing," said Rochelle Phelps, a family advocacy outreach manager.

Heartlink at Misawa is part of the Air Force's integrated delivery system. The first class was held in January 2003 and is offered every four months to spouses of servicemen, civilians and contractors new to the military way of life, organizers said.

"Part of it is just understanding how the military functions," said Anne Turnbull, Family Support Center community readiness technician. "When you have active-duty folks working 12- and 14-hour shifts, understanding the mission of the military and what drives that mission ... it's generally much easier for them to be flexible with the hours the spouse spends away from home."

Among the speakers Friday was Col. Don Weckhorst, 35th Fighter Wing vice commander.

"You probably know this, but it's not an 8-hour job," he told the wives. In today's Air Force, "it takes everyone to do this job."

The spouses also reviewed how to prepare for a Noncombatant Evacuation Order and how to decipher a military leave and earnings statement. But the best guidance may have come from seasoned military spouses.

Several officers and their wives joined the Heartlink class for lunch, including Karen Weckhorst, and Debbie Radloff, wife of Misawa Naval Air Facility com-

mander Capt. Wayne Radloff, who also stopped by.

Karen Weckhorst's advice to young military spouses: "They're a lot stronger than they think and they can do it."

To that, Delia Radloff added: "Don't be afraid to ask your neighbor for help. ... You'll be surprised how helpful people can be."

Natalie Bilger said she felt fortunate that her husband, Senior Airman Joseph Bilger, had yet to deploy five years into his Air Force career. When Bilger noted that she hadn't seen her family in more than a year, Weckhorst said: "You'll find, too, that the military, they can become your family."

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svanj@pstripes.osd.mil



JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Misawa Air Force and Navy officers and their wives, clockwise from left: Natalie Bilger, Debbie Radloff, Tami Rosado, Maria Sison, Karen Weckhorst and Millie Sarinas.

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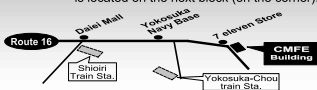
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# Accidental military deaths on the rise

BY ROBERT BURNS  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. troops in Iraq have suffered a rash of fatal vehicle accidents and other noncombat deaths in recent weeks, even as the number killed in insurgent attacks has declined. Although details of recent accidents have not been made public, some officials believe the jump in their number can be explained in part by turbulence from the troop rotation that is now approaching its peak, with tens of thousands of troops arriving and like numbers going home.

"The sheer volume of soldiers on the ground and high volume of vehicular traffic may reflect a higher rate of individual accidents or nonbattle injuries," said Maj. Richard Goldenberg, spokesman for the 42nd Infantry Division of the New York Army National Guard, which is commanding a mixed Guard/regular Army task force responsible for an area of north-central Iraq.

"There currently are about 155,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, according to the U.S. military command in Baghdad."

That is the highest number of the entire war, including the initial invasion.

The number of troops is expected to drop to about 135,000 over the next month or two as units

that complete their one-year tours of duty in Iraq pack up and head for home.

Some were held beyond their planned departure dates in order to provide extra security in advance of the Jan. 30 election.

In the first 16 days of February, there were 14 noncombat deaths, compared with 16 combat deaths. January had the highest number of accidental or other nonhostile deaths for any month of the war, with 51.

That included 30 Marines and one Navy corpsman killed in a single helicopter crash, on Jan. 26. Even setting that accident aside, the Army alone had 18 non-combat deaths in January — the most for any month of the war except August 2003, when it reported 22. January also had 47 combat deaths, down from 57 in December.

Although U.S. deaths in insurgent attacks have declined the past two months, the number of attacks has not.

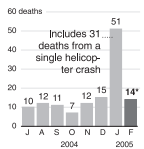
The U.S. military command in Baghdad said Thursday that in the two weeks since the Jan. 30 election there have been 1,012 insurgent attacks, compared with 1,876 from Jan. 1-29.

The spike in nonhostile deaths in January and February coincides with the troop rotation, which began in small stages last fall but reached its peak over the past two months.

## Noncombat deaths

February is on pace to surpass most recent months in the number of U.S. soldiers killed in vehicle accidents and other noncombat incidents.

U.S. military deaths in Iraq from vehicle accidents and other non-combat incidents



SOURCE: Defense Department

AP

The last time there was a notable increase in non-combat deaths was during the previous troop rotation — in February and March of 2004, according to Pentagon casualty statistics.

Fatal accidents and other non-hostile deaths are almost inevitable in a war zone, and during 2004 the number reported each month in Iraq stayed within a fairly narrow range — from a low of five in June to a high of 19 in March.

The average during the year was 11 per month.

The latest surge in accidental deaths began in mid-January and has continued well into February. This week alone, vehicle accidents killed at least eight soldiers and Marines.

# At least 36 killed in Baghdad bombings

BY PATRICK QUINN  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Five explosions shattered Shiite holiday commemorations in Iraq on Friday, killing at least 36 people, officials said, in the deadliest day of violence since Iraq's landmark elections last month.

Suicide bombers struck at two Shiite mosques after Friday prayers ended, another explosion occurred near a Shiite religious procession and a fourth attack, also carried out by a suicide bomber, blasted an Iraqi police and National Guard checkpoint in a Sunni neighborhood.

A fifth attack, a car bomb in the southern town of Iskandariyah, left at least seven people dead and 10 wounded outside a Shiite mosque, doctors said. The blast took place at about 7 p.m. in the predominantly Shiite town, 30 miles south of Baghdad.

The attacks recalled bombings on the Ashura holiday a year ago that killed at least 181 during the religious festival.

In northern Iraq, meanwhile, three American soldiers were killed in separate attacks on

Wednesday and Thursday, the U.S. military said.

The bloodshed began when a bomber entered the vestibule of al-Khadimain mosque in the Iraqi capital's Doura neighborhood as worshippers inside knelt in prayer, then detonated his explosives, said a witness, Hussein Rahim Qasim.

Shortly afterward, a bomb exploded outside the al-Bayaa mosque in a predominantly Shiite neighborhood in western Baghdad.

The first explosion killed 15 and the second killed 10, an official at Baghdad's al-Yarmouk Hospital said on condition of anonymity. About 30 were wounded at both mosques.

Less than an hour later, an explosion near a procession of Shiites marking Ashura northwest of the city center killed two and injured five, according to Iraqi police Lt. Waed Hussein.

The fourth attack was at the checkpoint in northern Baghdad neighborhood of al-Adamiyah.

Shiites packed into mosques Friday to mark the eve of Ashura, the 10th day of the Islamic holy month of Muharram and the holiest day of the year for them.

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## Community service

The U.S. Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station, Guam, will receive recognition from the Guam Legislature for its community service at 6:30 p.m. Sunday at Lencხო Park.

The Guam Legislature will recognize the station with a resolution, as part of the station's partnership with its sister village, Dedo.

Guam Legislature Vice Speaker Joanne Brown will conduct the presentation. Station commanding officer Cmdr. Jon Kennedy and others will accept the recognition.

## Self-help closures

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — The Self-Help Center will be closed Feb. 24 and March 3 in preparation for the upcoming Unit Compliance Inspection, scheduled Feb. 28 to March 4.

The 35th Comptroller Squadron is reducing customer service hours to get ready for the inspection. New hours, now through March 4, are: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays.

Starting March 7, customer service hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

## Motorcycle safety

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Sign-ups for Misawa's next Motorcycle Safety Foundation Course begin March 1. To sign up, visit Room 121 of Bldg 507 at 35th Fighter Wing Headquarters from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Those interested in becoming a customer should call Tech. Sgt. Abraham Malt at DSN 226-2702.

## Black History Month

The Cultural Heritage Club of Yokosuka Middle School is sponsoring a series of per-

formances Thursday in honor of Black History Month.

The program will run from 1:15 to 2:10 p.m. in the school multipurpose room and will include: African Drummers from Tokyo; a featured soloist from the U.S. Naval Hospital; Yokosuka Middle School Choir and Dancers; and an adaptation of Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

Winners of the school Oratory Contest will be announced and will perform their pieces. Students also will present a check for more than \$2,000 to the American Red Cross for tsunami victims.

## Zama music and dance

A group will perform Japanese Court Music and Dance for students Friday in the Zama American High School auditorium.

The traditional performance will be held during the seminar, from 9:20 to 10:30 a.m. in the school auditorium.

From staff reports



YESENIA ROSAS/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

**Spicy fixings:** Petty Officer 2nd Class Kiesha Jackson adds homemade salsa to a burrito during a sale sponsored by the Women's History Month Committee at Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, on Friday.



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# 'I tell them we play for the troops'

BY KATHRYN FIEGEN

Scripts Howard News Service

FORT MEADE, Md. — Ask a group of people who play their favorite musical artist or group is and you'll get a batch of answers.

Ask soldiers stationed in Baghdad which band makes them walk away with a smile and the answer is more predictable: Amber Tight. The 1st Cavalry Division rock group is one of about 20 such bands in the United States. As of Feb. 4, the group is back in the States after being in Iraq for almost a year.

The bass player, Sgt. Corrin Campbell, 23, of Superior, Wis., said Amber Tight re-uses music — cover songs, mostly — to cheer up the troops.

"We help them forget," she said. "You almost don't realize what an impact you have until people come up and tell you. It was a different kind of experience, kind of a reality check."

The group learns to play songs without sheet music in front of them, sometimes in only a day, and sticks to mainstream country, rock, pop and jazz songs the musicians know will please most listeners.

All of Amber Tight's nine members are Reservists who have been involved with music for years. They joined the Army rock band to share that while serving their country. "It's a blast to be able to wear this uniform and do what I love to do while I wear it," said Staff Sgt. Jeff Stewart, 40, a keyboardist from Lawrence, Kan. "Especially in Iraq."

Amber Tight is currently recording an album due out later this year. On it will be such group favorites as B.B. King's "The Thrill Is Gone" and "The Anti-Gravity [Summer of Romance]" by Incubus. The Incubus song is a personal favorite of Campbell's because of the "jazzy bass line."

Sgt. Andrea Scott, 32, of Richmond Va., said Amber Tight members play double duty, serving time as regular service personnel, doing guard duty and physical training, on top of their roles as musicians.

Group members come from a number of service areas from cooking to intelligence. After the album is cut, the musicians will return to their civilian lives where some will continue to pursue music. Sgt. Tony Corbett, 21, of Columbia, Md., plays the drums. He said he plans to go to college and major in something involving music.

Members realize that not many people know about the band's existence, but that's OK. They aren't looking for an "American Idol" brand of fame.

"Some people have never heard of the Army band," Corbett said.

"I tell them we play for the troops to provide morale and entertainment for them."



John Simon, left, of Alta, Iowa, plays lead guitar with Corrin Campbell of Superior, Wis., on bass, as the Army band Amber Tight rehearses in a Fort Meade studio.

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## Report: Army to boot mud-wrestling soldier

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — A military police officer who bared her breasts during a mud-wrestling party at an Army camp in Iraq is being kicked out of the service, her grandmother said Friday.

Luci Tomlin said 19-year-old Pfc. Deanna Allen was being singled out since photos of the event were published earlier this month.

"She got caught up in the moment and didn't realize the repercussions," Tomlin said from her home in Black Mountain, in western North Carolina.

Allen was initially demoted from specialist to private first class after the photos surfaced from the party at the Camp Bucca detention center in Iraq, including one of her lifting her shirt and showing her chest.

The party was held Oct. 30, as Allen's Asheville-based 105th Military Police Battalion took over duty from the 160th Military Police Battalion of Tallahassee, Fla.

"The 160th Battalion were the

ones that threw the party and encouraged the girls to do this," Tomlin said. "It has been so hard. This isn't what she wanted."

Tomlin, who lives with Allen's parents and sister, said her granddaughter will be brought to Fort Bragg for processing before being released from the military.

She was not sure of a schedule. Maj. Richard Patterson, a spokesman for the 18th Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, confirmed Allen "will be coming to Fort Bragg" but declined to comment on whether she was being ousted.

Allen said in an e-mail she was being separated from the military.

"I am fine," said the e-mail, sent to the New York Daily News and reported by the paper Friday.

"I am being chaptered out of the military, though. Be home soon."

The Daily News published party photos, including images of women wrestling in bras and panties in front of a crowd of male soldiers.

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## PBS war documentary

NEW YORK — At least two TV stations will show an uncensored documentary about soldiers in Iraq despite a warning from PBS that it can't insure stations against FCC fines stemming from bad language.

The public broadcaster is distributing "clean" and "raw" versions of next Tuesday's "Frontline" documentary about the Iraq war, titled "A Company of Soldiers." The documentary contains 13 expletives spoken by soldiers. But "Frontline" producers also made a separate version with the words edited out, for use by some of PBS's 170 stations.

From The Associated Press



## IN THE WORLD

# U.S., Japan to address Taiwan Strait security

By ANTHONY FAIOLA  
The Washington Post

**TOKYO** — The United States and Japan will declare Saturday for the first time in a joint agreement that Taiwan is a mutual security concern, according to a draft of the document. Analysts called the move a demonstration of Japan's willingness to confront the rapidly growing might of China.

The United States has long focused attention on the Chinese government's threat to invade Taiwan if the island, which China views as a renegade province, moves toward independence. Until now, Japan has been content to let the United States bear the brunt of Beijing's displeasure.

But in the most significant alteration since 1996 to the U.S.-Japan Security Alliance — which remains the cornerstone of U.S. interests in East Asia — Japan will join the Bush administration in identifying security in the Taiwan Strait as a "common strategic objective."

Set for release after the "two-plus-two" meeting between Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and their Japanese counterparts in Washington on Saturday, the revisions will also call for Japan to take a greater role in conjunction with U.S. forces both in Asia and beyond, according to a draft copy obtained by The Washington Post.

Praising Japan as a steadfast ally, Rice said Friday that maintaining peace in the Asia Pacific re-

## China takes issue with CIA comment on arms build-up

The Associated Press

**BEIJING** — China has accused the United States of sending a false signal to Taiwan by disclosing a CIA assessment indicating the military balance between the rivals is shifting in Beijing's favor.

The comments by China's Foreign Ministry, reported by state media on Friday, followed statements by CIA Director Porter Goss earlier this week that Beijing's military modernization and an arms buildup were "tilting the balance of power in the Taiwan Strait."

Goss said China has increased its ballistic missile forces across the strait dividing Taiwan from the mainland and deployed several new submarines

there. Beijing is also developing more robust nuclear-armed missiles, he said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Qian described Goss's comments, made in the CIA's annual assessment of worldwide threats presented Wednesday, as an "irresponsible act."

U.S. relations with Beijing have been relatively good in recent months. The two sides have boosted military exchanges and have been cooperating in efforts to persuade North Korea to dismantle its nuclear program.

But Taiwan remains a sore point. U.S. law requires Washington to help provide Taiwan with the means to defend itself and to treat seriously all threats to the island. Beijing routinely protests such provisions as interference in its internal affairs.

gion was a shared goal and she looked forward to a joint effort to restrain China from using force against Taiwan.

Rice, in a joint news conference with visiting Foreign Minister Bernard Bot of The Netherlands, reiterated the long-standing U.S. admonition to China.

"There should be no attempt to change the status quo unilaterally," she said.

Although it is likely to anger

China, the move is being welcomed by Taiwan, which, despite having been occupied by Japan from 1895 to 1945, maintains an empathy for the Japanese that is rare in Asia.

Elderly Taiwanese, for instance, still show delight in Japanese language and culture. Last month, Taiwan inaugurated its \$3 billion, Japanese-built bullet train, which can reach speeds of almost 200 miles per hour. And in December,



Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice testifies before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday in Washington. Rice and Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld are expected to hold formal talks Saturday with their Japanese counterparts over security concerns in the Taiwan Strait.

Japan angered China by granting a tourist visa to former Taiwanese president Lee Teng-hui, who was educated in Japan.

"This is the first time that Japan has made its stance clear; in the past, Japan has been very indirect on the Taiwan issue," said Koh Se-kei, Taiwan's special representative to Japan, which since 1972 has had formal relations with China but not with Taiwan. "We're relieved that Japan has become

more assertive."

Along with the threat of North Korea, which declared itself a nuclear-armed nation last week, the rise of China has become the primary concern fueling Japan's shift away from nearly six decades of pacifism.

Japan has generally been inclined to sidestep conflict with China.

Edward Goss, Sachiko Sakamaki, Akiko Yamamoto and The Associated Press contributed to this report.

## Britain food scare

**LONDON** — Britain's Food Standards Agency triggered an international food safety alert Friday on a batch of sauce that was contaminated with a dye linked to cancer.

The sauce containing the dye Sudan I was used in hundreds of British foods and exported to several European and Caribbean countries and to North America.

The agency used the rapid alert system for food and feed, or RASFF, to send out an alert across Europe, and then to the U.S. and other countries.

## Greek church reforms

**ATHENS, Greece** — Greece's powerful Orthodox Church, rocked by sex and corruption scandals, held an emergency meeting Friday aimed at making wide ranging reforms.

The 102-member Holy Synod is holding two days of meetings that will look at introducing stronger controls over church finances — a rare move by church leaders Archbishop Christodoulos.

From The Associated Press

# Lebanese president vows to get Hariri's killers

By PAUL GARWOOD

The Associated Press

**BEIRUT, Lebanon** — Lebanon's pro-Syrian president vowed Friday to hunt down the killers of former premier Rafik Hariri amid wide speculation over the involvement of this country's Damascus-backed government in the assassination.

President Emile Lahoud's commitment came during a condolence visit to his slain rival's home and amid Lebanese government efforts to keep control of the murder investigation, despite calls by Hariri's family and the United States and France for a foreign-led inquiry.

No credible claims of responsibility have emerged since Monday's bombing, which killed Hariri and 16 others. Lebanon has little confidence in an investigation led by its own government in light of its history of being unable to track down those responsible for past political assassinations.

Thousands of Lebanese have signed a 30-yard-long banner



Lebanese girls light candles Friday at the grave of Lebanon's slain former prime minister, Rafik Hariri, in Beirut, Lebanon.

with the word "Resign" written in French and Arabic, which has been undisturbed at Hariri's grave outside the towering downtown Beirut mosque he built. The popular calls for Prime Minister Omar Karami's government to resign

are the first since 1992, when riots forced Karami, who led the government then, to step down.

They also increase pressure on the government, which many accuse of involvement in Hariri's killing, and its main power-bro-

ker Syria, which also has been linked to the attack and is facing renewed U.S. and French calls to withdraw its 15,000 soldiers from Lebanon.

Both Syrian and Lebanese governments have denied involvement and have instead condemned the killing of Hariri, a popular, self-made billionaire who many here credit with rebuilding the country following the devastating 1975-90 civil war.

"The president of the republic stressed to the family of the martyr [Hariri] that the investigation is ongoing to uncover the circumstances of the ugly crime," according to a statement released by Lahoud's office following the meeting with Hariri's two eldest sons, Bahaa and Saadeedine.

Thousands of mourners, including those from Lebanon's Christian Armenian community, prayed at Hariri's grave Friday as Muslims gathered across Beirut for the main mosque prayer service of the week.

Associated Press correspondent Bassam Moua contributed to this report in Beirut.



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## Tsunami uncovers ancient city off India

The Associated Press

MAHABALIPURAM, India — Archaeologists have begun underwater excavations of what is believed to be an ancient city and parts of a temple uncovered by the tsunami off the coast of a centuries-old pilgrimage town.

Three rocky structures with elaborate carvings of animals have emerged near the coastal town of Mahabalipuram, which was battered by the Dec. 26 tsunami.

As the waves receded, the force of the water removed sand deposits that had covered the structures, which appear to belong to a port city built in the seventh century, said T. Satyapuri, a senior archaeologist with the Archaeological Survey of India.

Mahabalipuram is already well known for its ancient, intricately carved stone temples that have been declared a World Heritage site and are visited each year by thousands of Hindu pilgrims and tourists. According to descriptions by early British travel writers, the area was also home to

seven pagodas, six of which were submerged by the sea.

The government-run archaeological society and navy divers began underwater excavations of the area on Thursday.

"The tsunami has exposed a bas relief which appears to be part of a temple wall or a portion of the ancient port city. Our excavations will throw more light on these," Satyapuri told The Associated Press by telephone from Madras, the capital of Tamil Nadu state.

The six-foot rocky structures that have emerged in Mahabalipuram, 30 miles south of Madras, include an elaborately carved head of an elephant and a horse in flight. Above the elephant's head is a small square-shaped niche with a carved statue of a deity. Another structure uncovered by the tsunami has a reclining lion sculpted on it.

According to archaeologists, lions, elephants and peacocks were commonly used to decorate walls and temples during the Pallava period in the seventh and eighth centuries.

## Pope reflects on being shot

The Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — Pope John Paul II for the first time publicly described the moments after he was gravely wounded in 1981, saying in his new book that he was fearful and in pain but had "a strange feeling of confidence" he would live.

In the book, a copy of which was obtained Thursday by The Associated Press, the Polish pontiff also said his would-be assassin, Mehmet Ali Agca, "understood that above his power — the power of shooting and killing — there is a greater power."

In "Memory and Identity: Con-

versations Between Millennials," the pope said he remembered being rushed to the hospital but didn't recall much of what happened after he arrived because "I was almost on the other side."

The book, his fifth, is essentially a transcript of conversations he had in Polish with his close friends at his summer residence near Rome. It will be published Wednesday in Italy by Rizzoli, which also plans an English version soon.

In it, the pope reflected on a range of topics and broadly compared abortion to the Holocaust, saying both derived from governments in conflict with God's laws.

## New Zealander faces exposure charges nude

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — An environmental protester facing indecent exposure charges arrived at Auckland's District Court naked — but dressed before he entered the courtroom Thursday.

Computer technician Simon Oosterman, 24, was charged during the Auckland Naked Bike Ride last Sunday, an event he organized to protest society's dependence on the car.

Oosterman donned his clothes before entering court, where he pleaded not guilty and was released to reappear on March 21.

## Zimbabwe farmer killed by anti-elephant mines

HARARE, Zimbabwe — A villager in northeastern Zimbabwe was killed when five land mines he dug up to use against marauding elephants exploded in his arms, news reports said Wednesday.

Christian Munetsi had planned to use the mines to protect his corn field from elephants that roam the remote Rushinga district, local police official Michael Munyikwa told state-run media.

## Hong Kong woman sues KFC over alleged rat attack

HONG KONG — A woman has sued U.S. fast-food chain KFC for compensation after a rat allegedly fell onto her 2-year-old son and scratched his face in one of the company's Hong Kong branches, a newspaper said Friday.

KFC's Hong Kong office denied the presence of rodents in its Hong Kong restaurants.

From The Associated Press

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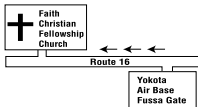
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## 'Show me your love hotels'

## Prospect of big profits lures foreign investors to Japan

BY TIM JOHNSON

### Knight Ridder Newspapers

TOKYO — Japan's "love hotels" are hard to miss. Clustered around freeway ramps and dotting the suburbs, the neon-lit hotels often look like faux castles or garish villas from the Arabian Nights.

Customers slip into the windowless hotels without showing their faces or giving their identities, usually exercising discretion in their liaisons.

The hotels are no small affair for Japan, though. Numbering some 19,000, love hotels are a pillar of Japan's economy, thought to provide more tax revenue than all other industries except pachinko parlors, the noisy betting venues filled with pinball-like games.

So it is of note that some of Japan's love hotels face hard times.

The owners got bank financing from the go-go 1980s, then plunged into other business. Now they struggle to make payments and can't upgrade their rooms to the amorous needs of 21st-century consumers. That's where foreign investors come in.

"They began expanding into other leisure businesses, like golf courses. The other things collapsed, and their properties are trapped," said Miro Mijatovic, the chief executive of MHS Capital Partners, a firm with offices in Tokyo and Hong Kong.

Sky-high real estate prices in Japan help shed light on the abundance of love hotels. The country's 120 million people crowd together in a land the size of California. Many families live with several generations cramped under one roof. Researchers say that more than half the love-hotel clientele is married couples or young unmarried couples with nowhere to go.



This bath in one of the rooms at the P&A Plaza, a love hotel located in the Shibuya district of Tokyo, is modeled after a cave. The rate for a short stay in this room is \$155, but overnight rates are higher.

"In the suburbs, married couples use the love hotels to be romantic. Since they live together with grandma and grandpa, and with their children, they don't have privacy," said Jiro Miura, a commentator from the Love Hotel Total Research Office, a consultancy.

Major Japanese banks, for the most part, see the love-hotel industry as unsavory. Other lending agencies have let foreigners tread first. Sniffing for opportunities, investors such as Mijatovic are scouting love hotels for signs of distressed ownership and tallying the couples entering each day as a way to estimate revenues.

What they say they've found is an industry any investor could cherish. Most love hotels are mom-and-pop businesses with an average of 10 to 25 rooms, although some have as many as 80. In general, rooms rent for two or three hours, averaging about \$66 a stay. Overnight stays are possible at a higher rate.

The average love-hotel room

rents two and a half times per day, Mijatovic said. For a 40-room hotel, monthly revenue can come close to \$200,000, he said. Profit margins routinely run at 45 percent.

"It's a very secretive industry. It's not like you can go down to your real estate office and say, 'Show me your love hotels,'" said Mijatovic, a Croatian-born Australian lawyer. Earlier this year, Mijatovic and two partners, former bankers from New Zealand and the United States, pulled in \$100 million to invest in the sector. They've bought two hotels near Tokyo, and seek \$35 million to \$40 million more for a second round.

Their plan is to renovate existing properties into boutique-style love hotels, creating the sense of being at a chic hot-spring resort.



KRT photos.

The back alleys of Tokyo's Shibuya district are dotted with love hotels. Here rooms are rented for short stays, almost always for the purpose of sexual interludes. Numbering some 19,000, the "love hotels" are a pillar of Japan's economy, believed to provide more tax revenue than all other industries except pachinko parlors.



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# Bush: U.S. will protect Israel

BY JENNIFER LOVEN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush criticized Syria and Iran as destabilizing forces in the Middle East but stopped short of threatening new U.S. action against either. Expressing sympathy with Israeli worries about a nuclear-armed Iran, the president said America would protect its ally.

Bush on Thursday said Syria was "out of step" with progress being made in the Mideast. The president cited the 15,000 troops that Syria has in Lebanon and accused Syria of harboring terrorist groups and assisting Iraqi insurgents.

He did not assert involvement by Syria, as many suspect, in the assassination this week of a former Lebanese prime minister, Rafik Hariri.

"I'm going to withhold judgment until we find out what the facts are," Bush said at a news conference where he announced the appointment of John Negroponte, the U.S. ambassador to Iraq, as director of national intelligence.

Going over one global hot spot after another, the president repeatedly chose the language of negotiation over intimidation.

He did say that "some of the behavior in the Middle East is unacceptable" — a reference to Iran's alleged pursuit of nuclear weapons and support by Iran and Syria of terrorist organizations.

But Bush emphasized diplomatic



President Bush answers questions from the media in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building at the White House on Thursday.

solutions. "There's a lot of progress that can be made," he said.

Bush dodged several questions about potential new penalties against Syria. "The idea is to continue to work with the world to remind Syria it's not in their interest to be isolated," he said.

His approach contrasted sharply with that recommended by a bipartisan group of 11 senators, who urged Bush to expand on trade penalties and to "take strong action" against Syria. "Neither the U.S. nor our allies can afford to let Syria off the hook," the lawmakers said in a letter Thursday.

Bush reaffirmed that Iran is not now in danger of a U.S. attack, de-

spite the administration's belief that Tehran is developing nuclear weapons; Iran denies that charge. "There's more diplomacy, in my judgment, to be done," the president said.

Asked about his level of concern that Israel might attack Iran to prevent its Tehran from acquiring nuclear arms, Bush responded with an assurance to Israel of U.S. protection.

"If I was the leader of Israel and I'd listened to some of the statements by the Iranian ayatollahs that regarded the security of my country, I'd be concerned about Iran having a nuclear weapon as well," he said. "We will support Israel if her security is threatened."

## Bishops report new abuse cases

WASHINGTON — The nation's Roman Catholic bishops said Friday that over the last year they received 1,092 new allegations of sexual abuse against at least 756 Catholic priests and deacons.

Half of the accused priests over the past year had been previously accused of abuse, said Kathleen McChesney, executive director of the bishops' Office of Child and Youth Protection.

The information came as the bishops released a new national audit of U.S. dioceses to determine how well they've complied with the child protection policy American prelates instituted more than three years ago at the height of the clergy molestation crisis.

## Rehnquist to miss arguments

WASHINGTON — Ailing Chief Justice William Rehnquist will be absent from the bench when the Supreme Court returns for the second half of its term next week, the court announced Friday.

The 80-year-old Rehnquist, battling thyroid cancer, plans to skip the two-week cycle of oral arguments that starts Tuesday, court spokeswoman Kathy Arberg said. He will continue reading transcripts of the arguments and voting on decisions, she said.

Rehnquist has been working mainly from home since Oct. 22, when he was hospitalized and then underwent a tracheotomy to help him breathe. He made his first public appearance last month at the presidential inauguration, appearing fragile as he delivered the oath of office.

Rehnquist's illness has led to speculation that he will step down, giving the court its first opening since 1994.

## Boeing exec gets 4 months in prison

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — A former top executive at Boeing Co. was sentenced to four months in prison Friday for illegally negotiating a \$250,000-a-year job for an Air Force procurement officer who was overseeing a potential multibillion-dollar contract for the company.

Michael Sears, 57, pleaded guilty in November to a single count of aiding and abetting illegal employment negotiations.

Specifically, Sears, who was chief financial officer of the aerospace giant until he was fired in 2003, negotiated to hire Darleen Druyun at the same time Druyun held sway over a contract sought by Boeing that was worth billions of dollars.

From The Associated Press

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# And the pudding goes to ...

## Famed Harvard prize given to Tim Robbins

BY NANCY RABINOWITZ

The Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Actor Tim Robbins pleaded, sang and faced off with protesters to earn the Hasty Pudding Man of the Year award.

Robbins, whose best-known roles include the wrongly convicted prisoner in "The Shawshank Redemption" and a quirky baseball pitcher in "Bull Durham," made his case Thursday to a "parole board" — a wooden board with "parole" written on it — and sang a version of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" with the lyrics rewritten for him.

The actor, known for his social activism, also had to deal with sign-toting protesters before members of the Harvard-based student drama troupe, dressed in drag, presented him with the bronze pudding pot.

Robbins' companion, actress Susan Sa-



Actor Tim Robbins, dressed in a wig and prison-striped bra, is kissed by actors dressed in drag Nicholas Ma, left, and Joe Bress, right, while being awarded Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals' "Man of the Year" prize in Cambridge, Mass., on Thursday.

random, was crowned the Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year in 1996.

"She actually prepared me for a parade, so she talked mostly about a parade and I didn't end up getting a parade," Robbins said of the advice he got from Sarandon. "Next time, maybe after tonight, we'll have an impromptu parade, open air cars, get some of the guys in drag."

Robbins, 46, earned a best supporting actor Oscar last year for "Mystic River."

Actress Catherine Zeta-Jones received the Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year award last week.

Hasty Pudding Theatricals, the nation's oldest undergraduate drama troupe, gives the awards to performers who have made a "lasting and impressive contribution to the world of entertainment."

Last year's recipients were Sandra Bullock and Robert Downey Jr.

### Panel OKs Celebrix sales

WASHINGTON — Advisers to the Food and Drug Administration concluded Friday that the popular painkiller Celebrix poses an increased risk for heart problems but should be allowed to remain on the market.

The FDA's arthritis and drug safety advisory committees, concluding three days of meetings to assess the risks of three popular painkillers called Cox-2 inhibitors, were to address Vioxx and Bextra later in the day.

### Cops: Suspect wanted wreck

GLENDAL, Calif. — A man accused of killing 11 people by parking his truck in a train's path intended to get his estranged wife's attention by causing "a horrific tragedy," not to kill himself as originally thought, police said.

Authorities also said Juan Manuel Alvarez told them he had poured gasoline on the SUV before the Metrolink struck it Jan. 26 as it carried commuters to downtown Los Angeles.

### Bush signs bill to curb suits

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Friday signed a bill that he says will curtail multimillion-dollar class action lawsuits against companies and help end "the lawsuit culture in our country."

The legislation aims to discourage class action lawsuits by having federal judges take them away from state courts. It was a victory for conservatives who hope it will lead to other lawsuit limits and for businesses that have complained for decades that state judges and juries have been too generous to plaintiffs.

From The Associated Press

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# Cosby won't face abuse charges

BY MARYCLAIRE DALE  
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Authorities found insufficient evidence to support a woman's claims that Bill Cosby fondled her at his suburban mansion after giving her medication that made her dizzy, a prosecutor said.

Cosby will not face charges stemming from the allegation by a former employee at Temple University, Cosby's alma mater, Montgomery County District Attorney Bruce L. Castor Jr. said in a statement Thursday.

The woman, who now lives in her native On-

tario, told Canadian authorities last month that, after a night out with friends in January 2004, Cosby gave her medication that made her woozy, then fondled her. She said she later awoke to find her bra undone and her clothes in disarray.

Cosby, 67, a Temple alumnus and booster, has denied the allegations. In a statement Thursday, his lawyer said Cosby was gratified by the decision.

Castor has said that the accuser's yearlong delay in coming forward, and her contact with Cosby in the past year, weighed in the comedi-

an's favor.

The prosecutor said he also reviewed claims by other people that Cosby had "behaved inappropriately" toward them, but that detectives could find no instance "where anyone complained to law enforcement of conduct which would constitute a criminal offense."

The woman's attorney, Dolores M. Troian, called the evidence strong and said her client is likely to sue Cosby.

It is the policy of The Associated Press not to publish names of alleged sexual assault victims without their consent.

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### Texas execution

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — Condemned killer Dennis Wayne Bagwell had said he was looking forward to his execution and, once strapped to the death chamber guinea, wasted little time making certain the lethal injection was carried out quickly.

Bagwell muttered only a few words of appreciation and affection to four people he invited to attend his punishment Thursday evening for the slayings of his mother and three other relatives nearly 10 years ago near San Antonio.

"Thank you," he said. "I love you all. All right, warden, I'm ready."

He was the third Texas prisoner executed this year.

### Stun gun suspension

TOLEDO, Ohio — Police have suspended their use of stun guns following the death of a suspect who had been shocked nine times.

Lucas County Sheriff James Telb said Wednesday the department will not use Tasers again until more safety studies are conducted.

He said his officers have used Tasers about a dozen times since they went into service last year.

Jeffrey Turner, 41, died last month after he was shocked five times by police and four times by guards at the jail. The coroner's office has not released a cause of death.

### Family sues city

BALTIMORE — City officials who encouraged a Baltimore couple to report illegal drug activity didn't do enough to prevent a dealer from killing them and their five children in retribution, relatives claim in a \$14 million lawsuit.

The suit, filed Wednesday in Baltimore Circuit Court, accuses city and state officials of gross negligence for failing to protect Angela and Carnell Dawson and their children, who died in a 2002 arson fire at their home.

The city's "Believe" campaign encourages city residents to fight crime by reporting drug activity.

### Terror plot charge

INDIANAPOLIS — Federal prosecutors have charged an Algerian man with making up an al-Qaida bomb plot in an effort to avoid being deported.

Ahmed Alaili, who was charged Wednesday, falsely claimed he knew members of the terrorist group and that he knew of a cell planning to detonate bombs in five major U.S. cities in early 2005, said Susan W. Brooks, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana.

Alaili, who was ordered deported after entering the United States with a fraudulent passport in 1998, made up the story after his November arrest in Indianapolis on a deportation warrant, according to a probable cause affidavit. Late last year, Alaili acknowledged he knew no one associated with a terrorist network, the affidavit said.

From The Associated Press



## 60th Anniversary of Iwo Jima ~ The Reunion of Honor

## The Bloodiest Battle

Years after war, Iwo Jima reunion stirs powerful memories

By JON R. ANDERSON

Stripes and Stripes

QUANTICO, Va. Arthur Gavlock looked on in horror as the amphibious assault craft in front of him moved out of its berth inside the tossing Navy warship and sunk straight to the bottom of the Pacific.

Now it was his turn. Turning to grab his rifle, Gavlock couldn't believe it. Someone had swiped it.

And so it was, 60 years ago this week, that a 19-year-old Marine private found himself wading ashore onto a strange island called Iwo Jima without a gun in what would become the bloodiest battle in Marine Corps history.

Gavlock, now 79, was among about 100 veterans of the campaign gathered at Marine Corps headquarters in Quantico, Va., Friday morning. It was among the first events to kick off the 60th anniversary commemorations of the attack on Iwo Jima.

A wreath-laying ceremony is slated at the Iwo Jima Memorial in Washington on Saturday, under the bronze feet of the five Marines and one corpsman sailor, immortalized by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal's image of the raising of the Stars and Stripes atop Mount Suribachi.

Across the globe, Marine commandant Gen. Michael Hagege is to oversee ceremonies on the black, volcanic island itself.

A linchpin in the Allied campaign to Japan, Iwo Jima served as an early warning station against American bombers. Taking the island would add three critical airfields for fighter escorts, placing them within easy striking distance of the Japanese homeland.

At Quantico, with most of the veterans of that grueling battle now well into their 70s and 80s, many shook from age instead of the fear they had to master as they stepped off their assault craft and into the chaos and carnage.

For Gavlock, now hard of hearing and wearing a red Marine Corps jacket and baseball cap emblazoned with the words "I survived Iwo Jima," it was the gruesome images of those first few hours on the island that remain his most vivid memories.



JOE GROMELSKI/Stars and Stripes

With the famous photograph of the raising of the flag on Mount Suribachi projected on a screen in the background, modern-day Marines re-enact the famous event during Friday's 60th anniversary ceremony at Quantico, Va.

## Dead everywhere

"Coming on the beach, the dead were everywhere, the young faces of those beautiful kids," said Gavlock, who managed to grab a rifle from among the bodies as he came ashore. "As a kid I was afraid of dead people, but it didn't take long to get over that."

Indeed, 22,000 deeply entrenched Japanese defenders would make taking the island one of the costliest battles of the war. It became the first — and still the

See more photos at [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com)

only — battle in history to see more Marines wounded than enemy. One out of every four Medals of Honor earned by Marines during the war were given to veterans of Iwo Jima.

Through the 36-day assault, which began Feb. 19, 1945, some

6,800 Marines and corpsmen would die, with another 19,000 wounded.

"Think about that," retired Gen. Chuck Krulak, the Corps' 31st commandant, told those gathered in Quantico. "A Marine fell to fire every two minutes of every hour of every day for 36 days."

"Truly, you represent the greatest generation," Krulak told the veterans, "and the greatest of our Marine Corps."

## Off the beach

An artilleryman with the 13th Marines, Gavlock said he feels lucky to have come out Iwo Jima without a scratch. "I guess I was my lucky number," he said.

Greg Emery wasn't so fortunate. But he didn't mind.

A Navy corpsman, Emery was wounded on day 12 of the invasion.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Neeth Williams, a current corpsman, stood enraptured as Newman told how he snuck out of the field hospital he was taken to after getting hit and rejoined his unit.

Williams eyes grew wide as Emery pointed to a picture of a young medic tending the wounded — part of a display of Iwo Jima battle photos and artifacts.

"That's me," he said, explaining that he stayed with his unit for 37 days on the island before leaving once Iwo Jima was captured.

"Man, it's amazing to meet someone like that," said Williams, a veteran of the 2003 invasion of Iraq. "The things he's seen and done, he really had me floored hearing those stories."

Herb Newman was just glad to make it out alive. Already a veteran of the Marshall Island and Saipan campaigns where he'd already earned his first Purple Heart, Newman had few illusions about what he'd face on Iwo Jima.

Newman spent the first three days of the invasion trying to take the high ground of an area of the island called the Sun Quarry. "Once I got up over the top of the ridge, I got shot in the leg," he said.

It took hours for eight musicians from the 24th Marine Band — tasked with tending to the wounded — to carry Newman down to the beachhead on a stretcher.

"Of course, that was the most dangerous place on the island," he says, recalling the gut wrenching trip out to a hospital ship with the Japanese peppered his craft with gunfire. "I remember thinking, 'Here I am, about to get my second Purple Heart, and I'm not even going to make it off the beach.'"

E-mail Jon R. Anderson at: [andersonj@mail.stripes.odm.mil](mailto:andersonj@mail.stripes.odm.mil)

“Truly, you represent the greatest generation and the greatest of our Marine Corps.”

Gen. Chuck Krulak (Ret.)

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# Lack of closure haunts victims of club fire

## Two years after R.I. nightclub fire, many families and survivors feel little resolution

BY ELIZABETH ZUCKERMAN

The Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — In the two years since The Station nightclub fire in West Warwick killed 100 people and injured 200 others, the state's fire codes have been tightened, three people have been criminally charged and funds to help the victims have paid out millions of dollars.

But those stronger fire codes have been since been loosened, the criminal trial won't start until next year and some families continue to struggle with financial challenges brought on by crippling injuries or the deaths of their loved ones.

Two years after the Feb. 20, 2003, fire, the survivors and victims' families are still waiting for resolution.

Anne Marie D'Alessio, director of the Rhode Island Victims' Advocacy and Support Center, said that for many people, the second anniversary of the fire is harder than the first.

"Last year, people were still in shock," she said. Now, "reality is setting in more."

Nightclub owners Jeffrey and Michael Derdarian, and Daniel Biechele, the former tour manager for the band Great White, pleaded innocent in December 2003 to 200 counts each of involuntary manslaughter. Their criminal trial isn't expected to begin until January 2006 at the earliest.

The fire was started after the band's pyrotechnics set off fire highly flammable foam that had been placed around the stage as soundproofing.

For those affected by the fire, waiting for that trial is difficult, D'Alessio said.

"While people are still moving forward — you're kind of held hostage," she said. "There's no closure. That's a myth. But you can close chapters."

Lawsuits against the three men, as well as members of the

## Statehouse holds Station memorial

BY ELIZABETH ZUCKERMAN

The Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Nearly two years later, Gina Matterna said the fire that took her sister's life is as hard to face as it was when it happened.

But, surrounded by others who lost loved ones in The Station nightclub fire, she smiled again as she recalled the big sister she called a partner in crime.

"She was so fun, so full of life. She was just crazy. She would do anything on a dare," Matterna said on Thursday, remembering Tammy Matterna-Housa, whose beaming face she wore printed on her shirt.

Matterna, 21, of Warwick, and others affected by the fire gathered at the Statehouse Thursday evening for a ceremony to mark the fire's second anniversary.

Gov. Don Carcieri and his wife, Sue, laid a wreath of white flowers and blue ribbons for the victims and the others affected by the blaze. It was to remain in the Statehouse Rotunda for a week.

Sarah Mancini of North Kingstown lost her son Keith in the fire.

"I found that this year was harder than last year," she said.

Mancini said she appreciated the ceremony because she said it's evidence the state has not forgotten those affected by the fire.

"To me, that is the most important thing in the world that they're not forgetting us," she said. The dozens of others who lined the stairs in the Statehouse Rotunda on Thursday were a comfort, she said.

"Two years seems like a long time, but it's not. Nothing gets resolved, nothing gets fixed," Matterna said. "Every day, I relive that day, and the next day, and the three days we waited to hear" about Tammy.

band, state officials and a host of companies, are on hold while the criminal case goes forward.

While the legal issues have crawled, there are signs of progress.

In September, the largest single source of charitable help for those affected by the fire, The Station Nightclub Fire Relief Fund,

stopped providing direct financial assistance. It had distributed about \$2.76 million for funerals, housing, emergency travel, food, clothing and a range of social services.

Other financial help has come from the state Crime Victims Compensation Fund. Survivors of the fire and victims' families qual-

ified for the fund after the Derdarians and Biechele were criminally charged.

Catherine Avila, the state's deputy treasurer for administration, said the state has received 256 applications to the fund, paid 117 of the claims, and is reviewing the others.

Another small step forward for

## Second Anniversary

What's changed since last year? Strict fire codes enacted after the deadly blaze have been loosened in some instances.

What hasn't? Many survivors and victims' families are still turning to charity funds to help out with expenses such as counseling, health insurance and child care.

What's on the horizon? The criminal case won't start until at least next January. The civil trial isn't expected to start until the criminal trial is finished. And a memorial families hope to build on the site of the fire might have to wait for the civil suits to be resolved.

From The Associated Press

victims' families is a recent decision by the attorney general's office to release to families the personal effects found in the rubble of the club.

Less than five months after the fire, Gov. Don Carcieri signed into law what was believed to be one of the toughest sets of fire-safety regulations in the nation.

By July 1, nightclubs and other places of assembly that hold 300 or more people must install sprinklers.

In the past year, however, lawmakers responded to pleas from businesses who said they couldn't afford the changes, or couldn't make them in time, empowering a state board to grant extensions for meeting the new codes.

Another disappointment for fire victims' families is the lack of progress on work to build a memorial where the club once stood — where many say they feel closest to those they lost.

The property's owner, Triton Realty, initially said it would donate the two-thirds of an acre for a memorial, but backed off when litigants named the company as a defendant in civil lawsuits.



House Speaker William Murphy, D-West Warwick, lays a wreath remembering the victims of The Station nightclub fire Thursday, prior to the memorial service in Providence, R.I.

"It's just good to know I'm not crazy," she said, as she watched other victims' family members and survivors exchanging hugs and wiping their eyes.

## Family pleads for location of missing daughter's remains

The Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — The parents of a girl missing since 1999, apparently killed by a van, appealed publicly Thursday for the man accused of disposing of her body to tell where she is.

Nine-year-old Erica Baker vanished while walking her dog near her home in Kettering, in southwest Ohio. Prosecutors say they believe she was hit by a van and her body was disposed of.

Earlier this month, a prison inmate, Christian John Gabriel, 33, was indicted on charges of abuse of a corpse and tampering with evidence. No one else has been charged.

Erica's parents, Greg and Misty Baker, saw him for the first time Thursday when he was arraigned via a video hookup in the

Montgomery County Common Pleas Court.

"All I've got to say is: Christian Gabriel, you know where she is, you know what they did with her. Just give us our daughter," Greg Baker said to reporters.

Prosecutors have not said why they believe that people disposed of the girl's body, or why they believe the death was not reported as an accident. They do say they think Gabriel may have been driving the van.

Gabriel, who is serving a nine-month prison sentence for receiving stolen property, said nothing during the arraignment.

Authorities are also seeking to obtain the testimony of attorney Beth Lewis, a former public defender, about what she knows about the case. A client of Lewis' who died in 2001 may have been in the van that hit the girl, authorities have said.



Misty Baker, the mother of 9-year-old Erica Baker, whose picture is in the foreground, talks Thursday about her daughter during an interview at her Dayton, Ohio, home.



# Dangers stir 'oops center'

## Study: Our brains warn us of bad situations

BY LEE BOWMAN

Scraps Howard News Service

That odd feeling that things around us just aren't right, that something bad is about to happen, apparently has roots not in the paranormal but in a structure right in the top of our brains, a new study has found.

Researchers at Washington University in St. Louis report Friday in the *Journal Science* that they have identified a brain region that acts as an early-warning system, working even at the subconscious level to help recognize and avoid high-risk situations.

"Our brains are better at picking up subtle warning signs than we previously thought," said Joshua Brown, a research associate in psychology and co-author of

the study with associate professor Todd Braver.

Experiments that coupled computerized modeling to predict brain function with neuroimaging studies done while volunteers responded to cues on a computer screen demonstrated that the anterior cingulate cortex (ACC) not only helps us sort through difficult decisions, but actually learns to predict bad consequences.

"In the past, we found activity in the ACC when people had to make a difficult decision among mutually exclusive options, or after they made a mistake," Brown said. Some scientists describe it as the "oops center" because the area near the top of the frontal lobes of the brain is literally the center of that irritated, sinking feeling we get when we realize

we've made the wrong turn or clicked the wrong button on a control panel.

The region has long been known to be a part of the brain's executive control system, helping to mediate between fact-based reasoning and primal emotional responses to love, fear and anticipation.

Brown said the study sought to show that the brain region doesn't just respond to detection of a mistake, but instead detects the likelihood that a person is on the verge of making a mistake.

Abnormalities in the brain region are associated with a number of serious mental disorders, including schizophrenia and obsessive-compulsive disorder, and the study offers new insights into those conditions as well as possible new approaches to treatment.

## Program grows life lessons for offenders

BY PATTI ROSENBERG

The Daily Press

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — A begonia named Bob and a geranium named Kay are teaching life skills to young inmates at the Merrimac Center, a locked juvenile detention facility in James City County.

"It teaches me responsibility — that good things will come out of it if I work hard," said Cory, a husky 17-year-old from the Williamsburg area who is Bob's caretaker.

In addition to the begonia, Cory is cultivating parsley, chives, sweet basil and other herbs that will eventually seeon food in the detention center's kitchen.

The Merrimac Center began offering the horticulture program in December after getting a \$5,000 grant from the Virginia Department of Education to cover the cost of materials to build the greenhouse.

The detention center serves more than a dozen localities, including Williamsburg, York, James City, Poquoson, Gloucester, Charles City, New Kent, Middlesex and Matthews. It typically houses about 40 adolescents — mostly teens, but occasionally children as

young as 11 or 12 — for periods ranging from a few days to a few months, said Merilee Fox, the center's principal.

The facility runs its own small school with teachers hired through the Williamsburg-James City County school system and paid with funds from the Department of Education. Merrimac is responsible for trying to keep its inmates up to date with the classes they were taking before they were incarcerated, which means facility members must be prepared to teach multiple subjects and grade levels.

Carol Tolbert runs the horticulture program. She also prepares kids for the GED.

The Department of Education recommended launching the horticulture program because many of Merrimac's residents come from rural areas, Fox said.

About six inmates are currently involved in the program, which combines research about plants with hands-on experience. It is designed to accomplish several goals. It will give participants some experience to put on a resume and some rudimentary job skills.

It gives them a chance to be nurturing instead of destructive.



Inmates study in a classroom at the Challenge Incarceration Program at Willow River, Minn., on Feb. 4. For a select group of nonviolent offenders, the camp is a chance to shave years off their prison sentences, by toughing out six months of military training and drug treatment.

## 'This criminal life has come to an end'

### Minnesota may expand boot camps as meth convictions steadily rise

BY MARTIGA LOHN

The Associated Press

WILLOW RIVER, Minn. — When Timothy Ruzek ended up in prison for selling methamphetamine, he was desperate for any way out — even if it meant the buzz cut, barked orders and day-break runs of a military-style boot camp.

For Ruzek, making it through the six-month camp will shave his 6 1/2-year sentence in half. For the state of Minnesota, the money saved in prison costs has lawmakers looking hard at adding more boot camp beds — especially as meth convictions explode.

The idea comes at a time when boot camps appear to be fading in popularity across the nation. The federal government is phasing them out after studies have shown they don't consistently reduce repeat crime.

But Minnesota officials see savings in the earlier release of boot camp graduates. It costs about the same — \$78 per day, per inmate — for the boot camp or incarceration.

"We save a pile of bed days here," Deputy Corrections Commissioner Dennis Benson said while giving state legislators a tour of the camp on a winding road north of the Twin Cities.

With 168 prisoners on a waiting list for the camp, corrections officials want \$380,000 to add at least 24 beds.

"I like the fact that if they participate (in camp) their sentence is knocked down," said Julie Rosen, a Republican state senator who supports the expansion. "It's going to cost us less."

An expanded boot camp is among the options Minnesota is considering in its war against methamphetamine, the cheaply made drug that's become a growing problem nationwide. Other options include stiffer sentences, adding more state agents and finding better ways to treat addiction.

Allison Colker, a senior policy specialist with the National Conference of State Legislatures, said she wasn't aware of any other state launching boot camp programs specifically for meth offenders.

Minnesota's camp wasn't set up for meth offenders when it opened more than 12 years ago, but in the last four years, the number of state prisoners doing time for meth has ballooned from 139 to more than 1,000.

"I came here solely because it was going to cut my sentence shorter," said Ruzek, 39. "I didn't really associate it with changing my life as much as doing hard labor to get out of prison early."

But the discipline and treatment Ruzek found in the camp had unexpected effects. Inmates are required to attend group chemical dependency sessions to talk about their addictions — mostly to meth, but crack and cocaine for some. Ruzek is now hopeful he can kick a meth habit he started almost 15 years ago.

Besides the counseling, the Challenge Incarceration Program, as it's known, includes the usual boot camp features.

"This criminal life has come to an end. We'll do what's right through thick and thin!" chants a 16-man squadron on a march.

Others attach a pile of logs with two-man saws. If spoken to, the men answer with "Sir" or "Ma'am" — or they have to drop and do push-ups.

For prisoners, the stakes are high. If they fail any part of the program or a year of post-release supervision, they go back to prison without credit for time in the program. Fewer than half of the nearly 2,000 inmates have made it through the end.

Of those who do finish, history suggests 8 percent will return to prison and 2 percent will be convicted of new crimes.

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# Search begins for a new White House chef

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Avocado and heirloom tomato salad beneath a spicy, toasted cumin dressing. Try with scallops, lightly caramelized, folded into a risotto and served with lobster sauce. A roasted rack of lamb. A chef who can pull this off just might have a future in the White House kitchen.

The search is on for a White House chef who can do it all, from simple munchies for the president to elaborate state dinners featuring America's best.

After nearly 11 years of cooking for two presidents, chef Walter Scheib III has left the kitchen at America's most famous house to pursue new opportunities.

The White House needs a flexible kitchen wizard capable of whipping up everything from a simple sandwich — President Bush is



Scheib

partial to peanut butter and jelly — to fancy menus that titillate the taste buds of the dozens who attend its glamorous receptions and state dinners, say those in the know.

Other likely ingredients for the new head cook: a thorough knowledge of American cuisine and international tastes, and a personality that can stand the pressure cooker.

He (there's never been a "she" White House chef), after all, has many palates to please — from the president and first lady, sometimes with differing food tastes,

to their children, their children's friends and guests including ambassadors, family and friends, lawmakers and foreign dignitaries.

Besides preparing mouthwatering meals, the chef should have a good personality, be good with people and budgets, and be versed in international cuisine, said Letitia Baldrige, who was social secretary in the Kennedy White House.

Hillary Rodham Clinton hired Scheib, a California native and graduate of the prestigious Culinary Institute of America, in April 1994 because she wanted to

feature American cuisine after years of French cooking at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., ushered in by Jacqueline Kennedy.

Scheib, formerly the executive chef at the upscale Greenbrier resort in West Virginia, is known for a cooking style that emphasizes regional American and ethnic tastes.

White House chef usher Gary Walters is leading the search for someone to fill Scheib's toque, the traditional chef's hat.

"The White House is being lobbied as it's never been lobbied before on any bill," Baldrige supposed.

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# Bening takes third Oscar nom with ease

By BARRY KOLTNOV  
The Orange County Register

LOS ANGELES — Hidden in the winding canyon roads high above Los Angeles is a nondescript shopping center where the rich and famous shop for groceries, pick up Starbucks coffee and schmooze over bagels in a popular deli.

Although the area is a rural setting, the cars in the parking lot represent the spectrum of sophisticated luxury automobiles from Europe. Everybody is somebody in this neighborhood, and nobody

is more somebody than Annette Bening.

All heads turn in her direction as the Oscar-nominated actress makes her way to a rear booth in a favorite breakfast spot. In less than a minute, an older couple who claim to be friends of Bening's husband, Warren Beatty, approach the booth and introduce themselves. A few minutes later, a fawning but opportunistic young woman pitches the actress on a book she wants to write about women who are "centered."

Ever polite, Bening accepts the woman's phone number,

scrawled on a napkin, and promises to consider the proposal.

These are busy times for the 46-year-old actress, who has been nominated in the Best Actress category for her portrayal of a flamboyant British actress facing mid-life in the 1930s drama "Being Julia." It is her third Oscar nomination, the other two coming by way of "The Grifters" and "American Beauty."

Q: Please describe the morning of a glamorous Oscar-nominated movie star.

A: It started today at about 5:30 a.m. when my youngest daughter



Bening

Q: How glamorous. Didn't you do anything remotely related to movie stardom this morning?

A: I talked with some people about the Oscars.

Q: OK, now we're talking. What about the dress?

A: The dress is paramount in my life right now. All my girlfriends are voting on which dress I should wear to the Oscars. My husband has a vote. My kids have a vote. Is that the kind of glamour stuff you were looking for?

Q: Absolutely. I'm glad you're doing something frivolous along with raising a family and trying to have a life.

A: I really am trying to have a life.

Q: I know you are. With that in mind, how much time do you have to devote to things like the Oscars?

A: That's a good question. The whole awards stuff is fun, and it's wonderful to be recognized. It's very gratifying. But it's also very intangible. It always comes back to the work. I'm starting a new movie in March ("Charlie and the Scissors"), so that helps to keep me grounded. ...

Q: This is your third nomination. How were your experiences at the Oscars ceremony the first two times?

A: The first time I had only done a couple of movies, so I never occurred to me that I'd win. So I sat back and had a lot of fun.

But that experience was made even better when the five nominees in my category got together minutes before the show started and agreed that we'd meet for dinner the next week and whoever won would pay. Whoopi Goldberg won ("Ghost"). A few days later, I got a bouquet of flowers from Whoopi with a card that said to meet at a certain restaurant at a certain time.

Q: So you really didn't think you would win?

A: There was no hype about it so I didn't think about it. That is, until the very last second when they called my name as one of the nominees, and I thought, "They could actually call my name."

Q: The second Oscar night was the famous pregnancy scare, wasn't it?

A: There was never any real danger of me delivering that night. I was still a couple of weeks away from my due date. But the experience of being pregnant is so all-consuming that no matter what's going on, that's all you can think about. But "American Beauty" was getting a lot of awards, my husband got a very prestigious award that night and it was starting to get a bit overwhelming. ...

A: Will you enjoy it more this time?

Q: I think it will be a lot easier not being pregnant.

Q: Do you think you might win?

A: I just don't know.

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MovieWeb.com

**Robert De Niro, shown with Blythe Danner in the comedy movie "Meet the Fockers," apparently needs a steady income just like almost everyone else.**

**Q** Why does Robert De Niro take roles that are beneath him in films like "Analyze This," "Meet the Parents" and "Meet the Fockers"? And what's with that American Express ad? — Dennis McCarthy, Boston, Mass.

**A** Those roles are not "beneath him." That's what actors do: take roles. What's more, De Niro, 61 — rarely a big box-office draw — often must finance his own projects. He also has to support five children by three mothers. His production company made a bundle on the films you cited. As for the commercial (by Martin Scorsese), American Express is the major sponsor of De Niro's Tribeca Film Festival.

**Q** Woody Allen hasn't had a hit since "Hannah and Her Sisters" back in 1989. Why do studios still greenlight his movies? — Roger Benaboe, Grolton, Conn.

**A** Because sometimes — but not often — Hollywood puts prestige above greed. Woody, 69, is still considered one of his generation's great directors, despite his commercial setbacks and moral lapse. Many filmmakers were turned off by his marriage to "stepdaughter" Soon-Yi, now 34. We'll see if Will Ferrell can end Woody's cold spell with "Melinda and Melinda," opening next month.

**Q** Your recent answer to a Medal of Honor question made it sound like the last man to perform actions worthy of the medal died in 1965. Is that true? — Steve Zimek, Medford, N.J.

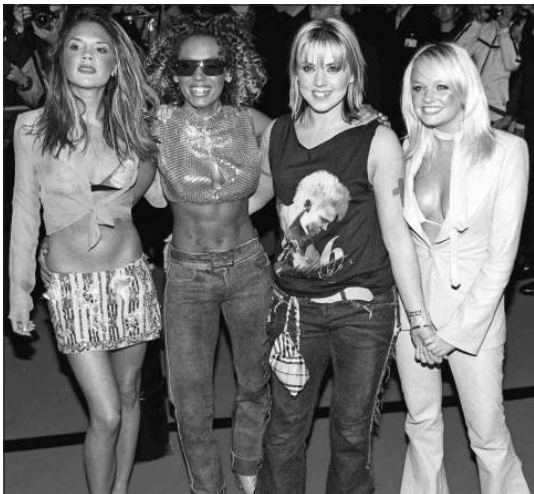
**A** No — and we didn't mean to imply that in our answer. Several Medals of Honor were given for later service in Vietnam. Master Sgt. Gary Gordon and SFC Randall Shugart earned posthumous medals for their actions in Somalia. And this month, it was reported that SFC Paul R. Smith, killed in action in 2003, would be honored for his heroism in Iraq.

**Q** You singled out Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward as their generation's most famous acting couple. But what about Ruby Dee and the late Ossie Davis? — Jessica Bailey, San Diego, Calif.

**A** Davis — who died this month at 87 — and Dee, 80, deserve a place in the pantheon of legendary acting couples alongside Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy, and Newman and Woodward. Married 56 years, they collaborated on 25 TV shows, 12 plays and six films.

**Q** Does Johnny Depp still own "The Viper Room, where his best pal River Phoenix died in 1993 from a drug overdose? — Tawnee Benson, Davenport, Iowa

**A** No. Anthony Fox, his partner in the infamous Hollywood nightclub, filed suit against Depp in 2000, seeking millions in allegedly missing profits. Before the suit could be settled, Fox himself went missing. He hasn't been heard from since December 2001. Last fall, as part of a legal settlement, Depp, 41, handed ownership to Fox's daughter Amanda, 19, who reportedly plans to sell the hot spot.



AP

**The Spice Girls, minus Geri Halliwell, cluster in London in 2000. Baby Spice, far right — now known as Emma — has a solo album out next month.**

**Q** What has happened to Baby Spice? Does she ever see her former Spice Girl bandmates? — Vince K., Riverdale, N.Y.

**A** "I'm still in close contact with the other girls," Emma (Baby Spice) Bunton, 29, tells us. "We got together recently for the christening of Victoria's two children" [by hubby David Beckham]. The youngest Spice — now known professionally as Emma — is in the U.S. to promote her solo CD, "Free Me," which went gold in England.

the punk band. Zapata was murdered in 1993 at 27. Last year, DNA technology led to the conviction of Jesus Mequiza, a drifter. Incidentally, Jett, 44, joined the band on a 1995 CD titled "Evil Stig" ("Gits Live" spelled backward).

**Q** A recent "West Wing" showed Allison Janney towering over Kristin Chenoweth. How tall is each? — Dee Bruce, Bradenton, Fla.

**A** Janney, 44, is 6 feet; Chenoweth, 36, is just 4 feet 11. That scene was a perfect setup for Janney's gibe about their height difference: "Are we from the same species?"

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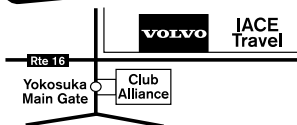
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Sasebo/Japan: Greg Tyler, PSC 476, Box 1126, PFO APO 96322-1126; tel. USN 225-3832; e-mail: tylerg@pstrips.com  
Tokyo/Japan/Asaga: Juliana Gitter and Hana Kusumoto, tel. USN 225-1303 and 225-3132 or cv (+81) (03) 3408-8936; fax USN 312-763-0900; e-mail: gitterj@pstrips.com and kusumotoh@pstrips.com  
Yokota/Japan/Asaga: Vince Little, Unit 5058 APO FB 96328-5058, tel. USN 225-9233; cv (+04) 2552-2161 ext. 52333 fax DA 225-7752; e-mail: little@pstrips.com  
Okinawa: David Allen, Fred Zimmerman, Chiyomi Sasaki and Erik Skavin, Camp Foster, Unit 33157, APO FB 96374-33157, tel. USN 445-3807 or cv (+1) (08) 893-2700; fax USN 445-9165; e-mail: okinawa@pstrips.com and okinawa@pstrips.com

## Korea

Korea Bureau Chief: Joseph Chaudron, Unit 15334, APO FB 96205-0423, tel. USN 721-7132 or cv (+82) (2) 2270-5334; e-mail: jchaudron@pstrips.com  
Camp Red Cloud/Camp Casey, South Robson, Address: Stars and Stripes, c/o HRC 2D (P40), Unit 15041, APO FB 96208-0289; tel. cv (+1) 909-7134; e-mail: redcloud@pstrips.com and redcloud@pstrips.com  
Otan Air Base/Camp Humphreys, Franklin Foster, Unit 15334, APO FB 96276, tel. USN 718-7251 or cv (+82) (3) 61-4523; fax USN 718-7022; e-mail: korea@pstrips.com and korea@pstrips.com  
Seoul: Teri Weaver and Hwang Hee-yeon, Unit 15334, APO FB 96205-0423, tel. USN 721-7131, 721-7132 or 721-7134; cv (+82) (2) 2270-5334; fax USN 721-7141; e-mail: korea@pstrips.com and korea@pstrips.com  
Taegu: Unit 15334, APO FB 96205-0423, tel. USN 721-7131, 721-7132 or 721-7134; cv (+82) (2) 2270-5334; fax USN 721-7133; e-mail: korea@pstrips.com and korea@pstrips.com  
WASHINGTON DC Bureau editor: Patricia Doherty, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301, tel. (+1) (202) 761-8959; e-mail: doherty@pstrips.com  
Lisa Baggett, tel. (+1) (703) 692-1875; Jan Anderson, tel. (+1) (703) 692-1895; and the Stars and Stripes, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301, tel. (+1) (202) 761-1183; fax USN 312-763-0900; e-mail: baggett@pstrips.com and anderson@pstrips.com and shaw@pstrips.com

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BY WILLIAM HOUSTON

It is about time the U.S. Forces Korea curfew issue got some attention. The Feb. 13 article "Ticked off over curfew" was good, but I have a few questions, as the reporting seemed filled with a couple of large holes.

As a United States citizen you have the right (unenforceable) to know why any law or regulation is being enforced upon you by your government entity, which includes the military. Why is there no direct question to USFK and, more specifically, USFK's commander, Gen. Leon LaPorte, on the exact that they are not classified.

LaPorte himself has said in articles in *Stripes* and other publications that his sole mission in South Korea is to stop "human trafficking." That is why he extended as USFK commander. He even said so far as to state that the imposed curfew has helped disrupt the practice of human trafficking.

The last time I checked, a general in the Army does not have the authority to impose any lifestyle regulations on private U.S. citizens above laws passed by the U.S. congress and state legislatures. Someone in that position also cannot enforce such regulations on citizens of another country or even in a foreign country.

In addition, the military has no legal jurisdiction over private U.S. citizens outside the confines of a military installation. Any threat of loss of work based on these policies constitutes harassment and is punishable under the military's own Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Now let's address the shield of force protection on this issue. Where are the State Department warnings on terrorists or other organizations' activities in South Korea against U.S. personnel? The reason why they were not given before USFK's interview is because there are none. Therefore, what is the force-protection issue here?

Everyone is scared to say this but, ever since Sept. 11, the military and the U.S. government to a certain extent have taken a reactionary response to anything that might

be deemed a "threat." I have lived in South Korea for only five years, but I have many friends who have lived here their whole life, including the days when marshal law was enforced here by the South Korean government. Outside of the South Koreans demonstrating against U.S. forces being in South Korea (some demonstrations are violent, but that is rare), there is no threat in this country except from South Korea's neighbor to the north — which is not done any real harm to U.S. citizens or even military personnel in years.

That leads me to the second shield that LaPorte and his staff use for this policy: readiness. As a military leader, LaPorte is responsible for the readiness of his command. He delegates this duty to his subordinate commanders.

Of course, in today's military the mission cannot be accomplished without the assistance of civilian and government contractors. That being said, who is responsible for hiring those individuals, transporting them to South Korea, training them, equipping them, and disciplining them if necessary? The individual civilian companies and government agencies.

I know that if I am not "ready to fight tonight," I will be fired or sent to another contract. I am an adult and a civilian and I do not need a general as a baby sitter. There is no logical reason for this policy toward civilians, who are the only members of USFK who are truly "ready to fight tonight."

Look, for instance, at the operating hours of installation drinking establishments. They do not close until well after the curfew and most military members who live on base use them every weekend if not every night. So if readiness is an issue then why are installation drinking establishments allowed to stay open after the curfew? It does not matter where you drink. If you are drunk you are still not "ready to fight tonight."

This curfew policy has a real effect on my ability to accomplish the mission. As a civilian contractor I am obliged to be on call at all times. So transiting to and from work during curfew hours would be a problem — particularly when military police follow you home.

I am not one to go out late at night and visit the local entertainment districts here in South Korea. I do have several friends and other foreign national friends whose homes I visit on a regular basis. My friends' jobs dictate that they work long hours and mostly late hours. So usually a gathering or family function does not even start until late in the evening, which means I must refrain from going on fear of losing my job because of a general who wants to enforce his personal beliefs on as many people as possible.

The real reason for the curfew, as alluded to in many of LaPorte's comments, is "human trafficking." It is a shame in the world situation today that the military allows a person of this nature to be in command of any unit anywhere in the world. If you ask him if that is the reason, his response will be: "That is one of them." Then ask what the other reasons are and you will get a party-line answer with few (or no) facts to support it.

These are the questions that should be asked on the curfew policy toward civilians.

William Houston lives on Otan Air Base, South Korea.

## Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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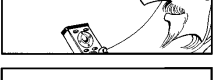
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Country code +81 3-3408-8936;

USN 229-3271

E-mail: letters@pstrips.com





## OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

## FDA pick has tools to help San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News

President Bush proved Monday that he does not cater to the pharmaceutical industry's every whim.

The president has been under pressure to pick someone with close ties to the industry as the new commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. His choice of acting commissioner Lester Crawford, who has extensive experience in food safety issues, deserves bipartisan support and quick confirmation by the Senate.

Critics will pounce on Crawford's performance since taking over as acting commissioner in March 2004. They will argue that his selection is less than inspiring, particularly in the area of controlling prescription drug costs.

But his very status as acting commissioner hampered his ability to show strong leadership at an agency he acknowledges is in need of an overhaul. The FDA, which has a \$1.8 billion budget and a staff of more than 10,000, has gone without a permanent commissioner for more than half of Bush's presidency. Crawford is well-suited to bring necessary reforms to the FDA in four major areas: protecting the U.S. food supply from terrorism;

■ revamping the nation's vaccination programs, particularly in regard to flu outbreaks and bioterrorism threats; ■ strengthening the effectiveness of monitoring the safety of drugs already on the market, including consideration of an independent drug safety center; and ■ strengthening the agency's re-importing prescription drugs from outside the United States.

Crawford's four years at the FDA provide him with ample knowledge of the agency's inner workings. Besides his background as a veterinarian and pharmacologist, Crawford brings expertise in food safety from his experience as administrator of Virginia Tech's Center for Food and Nutrition Policy. He is a good choice to enforce the FDA's role as the nation's foremost consumer protection agency.

## Voluntary HIV testing is smart Rochester (N.Y.) Democrat and Chronicle

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that nearly 300,000 Americans are HIV-positive and don't know it.

Results from two federally funded studies suggest that routine, voluntary HIV screenings could lead to fewer infections and better treatment. The idea deserves the serious consideration the CDC is giving it.

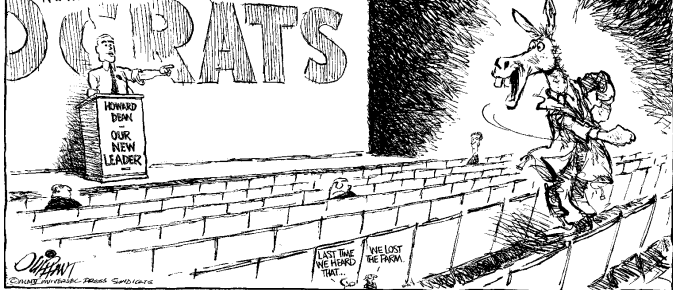
Nearly 40 percent of people with HIV in the United States don't learn they have the disease until their immune systems are so badly damaged that they become sick. At that point, the effectiveness of treatment is compromised. And a person who spends a long period unaware of an HIV infection is more likely to spread it.

Making voluntary HIV tests part of the medical culture, like cancer screenings or cholesterol tests, would cut down on the number of infections spread by people who don't know their HIV status.

Getting primary-care doctors to offer and encourage HIV tests would be especially helpful for populations at especially high risk, such as African-American women, who make up 65 percent of new female HIV infections in America.

Knowing one's HIV status should be the norm. CDC-recommended testing for those at risk could help slow the spread of this disease.

AND WE'RE GONNA WAKE UP!  
AND WE'RE GONNA UNITE!  
AND WE'RE GONNA GET ORGANIZED!  
AND WE'RE GONNA BE A NATIONAL PARTY AGAIN!  
AND WE'RE GONNA RUN CANDIDATES IN EVERY STATE!  
AND WE'RE GONNA BE VIABLE AGAIN!  
AND...



## Compromise good for Iraq The Sacramento (Calif.) Bee

Whatever else it may mean, the final tally of votes in Iraq's Jan. 30 election for a provisional national assembly carries a hopeful message: Iraq's ruling party is likely to dominate Iraqi politics for the foreseeable future. Thus forming a government and writing a constitution will require compromise, a fundamental tenet of democracy.

Despite its first-place finish, with 48 percent of the popular vote and 140 of the 275 seats in the assembly, the United Iraqi Alliance, dominated by two Shiite religious parties, will not have a large enough majority to dictate either the shape of the government or the content of the constitution, both of which require a two-thirds majority. That diminishes the likelihood that the most rigid elements of Islamic law will be embedded in the country's basic charter.

That doesn't mean the road ahead will be smooth.

What might help, in Iraq and elsewhere, is a more active role by European governments that opposed the Iraq war — Germany and France especially — and, perhaps even more important, by the Arab world. Autocratic regimes there have taken no meaningful steps toward popular sovereignty, notwithstanding the lip service they have paid to Iraq's courage in trying to realize the promise that lies before them.

## Dean there to set the stage Herald News, West Paterson, N.J.

Before the Iowa caucuses, presidential hopeful Howard Dean was the most popular Vermontian since Ben and Jerry. Like ice cream, Dean didn't hold up well to intense heat. The former governor let out a war whoop during his concession speech in Iowa, and the media destroyed him. Rumors of Dean's political death were greatly exaggerated. Last weekend, he was elected chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

The party chairman is not really the frontman for the party; the 2008 presidential nominee will fill that role. In the interim, Democrats need to build up local party machinery. They need someone who understands grass-roots organizations. They need someone who is willing to step back and let the candidates take center stage. Dean may be better suited for that role

than Republicans think. Dean's first test will be gubernatorial races in New Jersey and Virginia in November.

To win back Congress and the White House, Democrats need a message that appeals to moderate, and even some conservative, voters. If successful, Democrats will have something to cheer. Dean would be advised this time around to keep his enthusiasm in check.

## Wrong to put Kyoto on shelf The Daytona Beach (Fla.) News-Journal

Glaciers are retreating in mountains from Alaska to the Andes to Tibet. An age-old Antarctic ice shelf the size of Rhode Island shatters and melts into the sea. Greenland's ice, which holds enough water to raise ocean levels 21 feet, is starting to melt.

Yet James Inhofe, the Oklahoma senator and chairman of an environmental committee, calls global warming the "greatest hoax ever perpetrated on the American people."

Inhofe's thinking is echoed more mildly by the White House and is winning the day in the United States for now, at least politically. On Wednesday, the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change went into effect, but without American participation. It isn't just a failure of diplomacy characteristic of the Bush administration, which has been either unwilling to negotiate through international forums or inept at doing so. It is a failure of imagination as well. The administration's promised alternative to Kyoto has yet to coalesce in the form of policy.

The United States contributes more than a quarter of the world's pollution (and greenhouse gases). Its absence from the treaty means progress on emissions will be even slower, if at all effective.

## Border between law and order The San Diego Union-Tribune

Suppose that, whenever the federal government wanted to build a major project ... it simply exempted itself from the labyrinth of environmental laws that applied to everyone else. Why have such laws in the first place, if Washington is going to sweep them aside for its own convenience while enforcing them rigorously against all other parties?

This question is more than academic

now that the House has voted to waive all state and federal environmental laws in order to speed completion of the proposed triple-fence barrier at the [U.S.-Mexican] border [south of San Diego]. In our view, such a blanket exemption is not only unnecessary but also hypocritical. Worse, it would establish a terrible precedent, undermining the fundamental idea that no one, least of all the federal government, is above the law.

The Senate should stand firm against the sweeping House waiver.

## A victory for the status quo The Toledo, Ohio Blade

House Republican leaders in Washington have delivered an unmistakable message to Capitol Hill: Don't bother to lodge ethics complaints, no matter how offensive the stench of corruption.

They did so by firing the chairman of the ethics committee, replacing him with a more pliable associate, and adding to the panel two members who have made no secret of their support for at least one major ethics scofflaw, Majority Leader Tom DeLay of Texas.

The action makes it less likely that House members will take the time to complain about the kind of incipient corruption that goes on daily in and about the halls of Congress. In a process that already was difficult to negotiate, the deck is further stacked against them.

## Visa rules reach happy medium The Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel

Uncle Sam made a smart move in easing visa rules for many foreign students and scientists.

Under rules adopted in 1998, students and scientists working in fields considered sensitive had to renew their visas every year. But tighter security after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks lengthened the average wait for renewals to more than two months. The delays have led some foreign students and scientists to take their talents to America's economic competitors.

Now the State Department will give students up to four years, and scientists up to two, between visa renewals. Homeland Security officials have blessed the change. As long as it can be done without compromising national security, it will always be in America's best interest to attract the best and brightest from around the world.



## Disturbing survey

**CT** KILLINGLY — A survey of teenagers in northeastern Connecticut has found an increasing number use household products to get high. The survey of 1,230 students in the 21-town region found 12 percent of ninth-graders and 15 percent of 10th-graders said they have used, at least once, aerosol sprays or other household products to get high.

## Ethanol legislation

**MT** HELENA — The Senate passed legislation requiring that most gasoline sold in Montana be blended to contain 10 percent ethanol. The law would take effect a year after yet-to-be-built ethanol plants are capable of producing \$5 million gallons of the product, considered enough to meet Montana's yearly demand. The bill now goes to the House.

## A faithful risk

**OK** GROVE — Usually, parishioners offer money to their churches. This time, the church handed out money.

Pastor Steve Dyer of the Newsom Church gave \$14,000 to congregation members to invest for seven weeks, after which they are to bring the money and profits back to the church to be used in missionary work.

Dyer said the church isn't keeping track of who has the money.

He only gave one stipulation: It was not to be used to buy lottery tickets or to gamble.

## Marijuana lawsuit

**CA** BERKELEY — Medical marijuana advocates filed a lawsuit Tuesday demanding California Highway Patrol officers stop confiscating pot from authorized users.

The lawsuit is the latest salvo in the long-running debate over medical marijuana in California, approved by voters in 1996, opposed by federal authorities ever since and applied unevenly all over the state.

The lawsuit against the highway patrol — which also names Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Attorney General Bill Lockyer — says CHP's "rigid policy" of seizing medical marijuana "causes law-abiding citizens to suffer pain, humiliation, loss of dignity, extreme anxiety and a fear of the police."

The lawsuit seeks a court order stopping the CHP from seizing marijuana from legitimate patients.

## Balloon creates sparks

**IN** MISHAWAKA — A Valentine's Day gift sure created some sparks here — when it plunged 2,100 homes and businesses into the dark.

The heart-shaped metallic Mylar balloon caused an electrical outage when it drifted into an electrical substation, said Phil Miller, the general manager of Mishawaka Utilities.

"It said 'I Love You' on it," he said. "It looks like someone didn't hold onto their Valentine's gift tightly enough."

The string caused a short circuit in a bank of capacitors, which are components that store electrical



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

charges within the city's power transmission network.

## McLost and found

**FL** ORLANDO — Carol Birmingham almost had a heart attack when she realized her Mac Attack had cost \$8,700.

The 62-year-old British tourist didn't notice until Sunday morning that she had left her cash-stuffed purse on a McDonald's counter when she bought lunch the previous day.

Inside was her down payment for a vacation home.

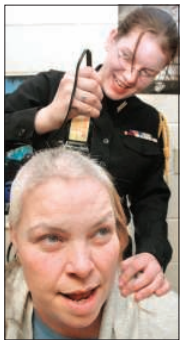
But the panic was short-lived since an assistant manager at the restaurant turned the money over to the Orange County Sheriff's Office for safekeeping.

The Birmingham returned to McDonald's on Monday to give Barattin and fellow manager Aileen Norris an undisclosed reward.

## 'Squatters law' upheld

**HI** HONOLULU — A federal judge on Monday rejected a civil rights group's request to block the enforcement of a state law that allows authorities to ban people from public places after one warning.

U.S. District Judge Helen Gillmor scheduled a March 14 hearing to listen to the people allegedly



## Close cut

Freeport High School, Ill., ROTC Cadet Beth Peters finishes shaving Drill Team Coach Lorrie Budden's hair cut. Budden fulfilled her promise to have her head shaved if the Freeport team placed in competition.

wronged by the law and establish whether the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii has a case.

Gillmor said she wanted to hear what the "actual impact" of the law has been since it was passed last May.

The law, known as Act 50 or the "squatters law," prohibits a person or group from entering a beach, park or other public place — including libraries or the state Capitol — for up to one year after receiving a warning or request to leave the premises.

## Large alumni gift

**NY** ALFRED — Alfred University received a \$35 million donation from a 1954 graduate, President Charles Edmondson announced Monday.

The gift is the largest in the school's history.

Marlin Miller Jr. and his wife, Regina, gave \$10 million to expand the Miller Performing Arts Center, which opened in 1995.

The remainder of the money will go into the university's endowment to fund faculty positions, scholarships and visual and performing arts programs.

## Political puppies

**MN** ST. PAUL — Attorney General Mike Hatch's office really went to the dogs.

Hatch brought his golden retriever, Bella, and her nine puppies to the office Tuesday at the request of his staff, which wanted to throw a "puppy shower." Laddie, the dogs' father, stayed home.

Leslie Sandberg, a spokeswoman for Hatch, said all the puppies have been purchased or spoken for. But it will be a few weeks before the mouth-old puppies head to their new homes.

Hatch said of the puppies, "They were born Republicans, but then they opened their eyes and now they're Democrats."

## Phoenix-area light rail

**AZ** TEMPE — Nearly five years after Phoenix-area voters approved light rail, construction on the first line of Metro track began Tuesday.

Mayors from the three cities where the initial rail will run — Phoenix, Tempe and Mesa — joined dignitaries and the public for a ceremony to officially mark the start.

Utility work and construction of the train's maintenance and storage facility are under way. Now workers will start laying track for an initial 20-mile line, beginning with a 1-mile segment near the border of Tempe and Phoenix. Electric rail cars will start running on that test track by spring 2006.

The initial line is scheduled to open in December 2008.

## Revenue shift blasted

**KY** FRANKFORT — Democratic senators from coal-producing counties blasted Republican Gov. Ernie Fletcher's budget plans to give the state's general fund some tax money usually marked for their counties. Now all coal mined in Kentucky is subject to a 5 percent tax which is split about evenly between the counties and the state. Fletcher wants Kentucky to get more than \$50 million of the money that the counties now receive.



## Learning the tricks

Michael Harvey, 14, right, gives skateboarding lessons to his younger sister Candace, 12, in Farmington, N.H.



## Beary nice

Don Lanco uses a chain saw to carve a statue of a bear behind Pollock Street Deli in New Bern, N.C.



## Move 'em out

Members of a multigenerational Yampa Valley ranching family, from left, Becky, Perk and Ray Heid, gather horses on the family ranch, north of Steamboat Springs, Colo., after a storm.





**Race of the beds** Mississippi State University aerospace engineering students, left to right, Will Barksdale of Pascagoula, Vanessa Aubuchon of Ocean Springs, Jennifer Esper of LaPlace, La., and Rod Fleming of Rocky Mount, N.C., won the "Engineering Bedlam" event during National Engineers Week activities on the MSU campus.



**Stuck in the office** A white-tailed deer struggles to get back out of an office window at G.A. Braun Inc. in Syracuse, N.Y. The deer had crashed through the glass window into the office.



**Brutttttt ...** John Licari, Fort Atkinson, Wis., tries to stay warm as he waits in vain for a fish to bite before going in to warm up, while ice fishing at Brittingham Park in Monona Bay, Madison, Wis.



**Picture perfect** Peg Connery-Boyd paints a street scene using oil paints in Mystic, Conn.

## Bugging suspected

**RI** PROVIDENCE — State police have launched an investigation at the Providence police headquarters after what's been described as a listening device was discovered over a covertly mounted under an employee's desk.

According to the union, a civilian employee who transcribes handwritten police reports into a computer noticed a tiny canister magnetically mounted beneath her desk. The woman gave it to police Lt. John Kaya, who unscrewed it and discovered a battery, circuits and what appeared to be a microphone. Kaya and two sergeants agreed that it appeared to be a bugging device, according to Sgt. Robert Pannicia, president of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 3.

Union officials met with Cmdr. Paul Kennedy, and they agreed that the state police investigate. The Providence Journal reported.

## Boy dies from gunshot

**GA** FOREST PARK — A 2-year-old boy was removed from life support Saturday, after being shot during a confrontation between his family and an intruder demanding money, authorities said.

It was not clear who fired the shot that struck Xavier Miranda. The boy had been declared brain dead, a hospital spokesman said.

Police said an intruder entered the family's apartment Thursday and grabbed Xavier while demanding \$1,000 in tax return money from the child's father.

The assailant started counting down while holding a gun pointed at the child's head. Before he could finish the countdown, the boy's aunt walked into the room.

Shots then were fired by both the suspect and the father, according to police.

## Tax to pinch dairy farms

**ME** KNOX — After a couple of years of relatively stable prices, dairy farmers are facing their latest challenge: a tax on livestock semen, a product that is nothing less than critical to dairy operation.

Bull semen is as basic as feed to dairy operations, which breed cows about once every 14 months to keep them producing milk. Bulls aren't used much because they are hard to manage.

Farmers long avoided a tax many didn't even know existed as Genex Cooperative Inc., the largest livestock semen distributor in Maine, simply paid the 5 percent levy without passing it through to farmers, according to state Rep. John Nutting, D-Leeds. Then the company decided it would stop paying the tax and it started showing up on farmers' bills.

"That's why the issue has just hit the fan," said Nutting.

## Pet lab turns into rat

**TX** GRAPEVINE — The owner of J.D. the Labrador may be wishing his dog weren't such a good retriever.

Matthew Porter of Richland Hills and two friends were playing Frisbee golf in a park when a police officer who thought he smelled burning marijuana began questioning them.

As the officer was checking for outstanding warrants, J.D. waded into a nearby creek and emerged

with a bag containing the drug. Porter, 25, was charged with possessing drug paraphernalia. Micah Hays, 24, was charged with marijuana possession. J.D. was turned over to the third person at the park, who faces no charges.

## Prairie dogs blamed

**MT** INTERIOR — Jerry Heinrichs says that because of the long-running drought across the West, his cattle had to compete with prairie dogs for the grass. And the prairie dogs won.

Across his ranch and other swaths of both private and government-owned grassland in southwestern South Dakota, little remains but bare dirt, stones, prairie dog mounds and the burrowing rodents that live under them.

Heinrichs mostly blames the federal government, which for more than four years stopped poisoning prairie dogs while it decided whether they critters deserved to be protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Ranchers say that the pests soon invaded their ranches and ate all the grass, devoured prickly pear cactus and dug down to get plant roots. Jonathan Proctor, a spokesman for the Predator Conservation Alliance, disputed the ranchers' account, saying the bare land was caused not by prairie dogs but by overgrazing during the drought.

## Truck owner fined

**VT** BENNINGTON — Poorly maintained brakes, worn tires and speed may have contributed to a truck's collision with a school bus that sent six students to the hospital.

The state has fined the owner of the truck, Dallas & Mavis Specialized Carrier Co., of Wisconsin, \$500 for an inoperative brake, a brake component violation and poor tire depth, according to a state motor vehicles official.

The tires "were basically bald and some ... actually had wires exposed," said Lt. Paul Doucette of the Bennington Police.

## An alarming ovation

**VA** RICHMOND — The Senate has been in session about half an hour and had Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer and several of his football players a rousing ovation when fire alarms sounded.

Senators, delegates, staff and about 100 Capitol visitors filed out and waited while the building was cleared.

"In the last 44 years, I don't recall coming out of a House session for a fire alarm or for any other reason," said Del. Lacey Putney.

No fire was found in the building.

## Teen shot to death

**NY** NEW YORK — A 16-year-old Bronx boy is dead and another is under arrest for shooting him five times, killing him, police said.

Fernando Corea, a football team captain at Alfred E. Smith High School, was shot near his home, just days before his 17th birthday.

Police later arrested Quindel Francis, who lives in the nearby, and charged him with Corea's murder and criminal weapons possession. The shooting was said to be over a long-term feud between Corea's refusal to join the Bloods gang.

Stories and photos from wire services



## RELIGION

# Survival training keeps chaplains ready

BY CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT

The Washington Post

It's been a long time since anyone told Maj. Clark Carr to keep his head down, watch out for snipers and to move, move, move! Then again, Carr wears a cross on his camouflage helmet, and as an Army chaplain, he is a non-combatant, forbidden to carry a weapon. But if Carr is deployed to Iraq, where even chaplains can suddenly find themselves in the heat of battle, he knows he will need to bring with him sharper survival skills.

That's why he and five other Maryland National Guard chaplains went through a sort of mini-boot camp last week at an Army installation outside Baltimore. They ducked and covered from imaginary enemy fire.

"They hit the dirt and ran more than many of them had in a while."

And they did it over and over again Thursday as a master sergeant pounded home to them that Iraqi insurgents may not distinguish between men of the cloth and men of arms.

"It hones the skills," said Carr,

## Course offers blunt reminder that rebels in Iraq will not distinguish men of cloth

in civilian life a pastor at Grace United Methodist Church in Hagerstown, Md., as he wiped sweat from his forehead. "And keeps us aware of the environment the soldiers are facing."

The idea for the training came from a chaplain stationed in Iraq who told his stateside brethren that this war was like nothing he had ever seen, and that the chaplains needed to be better prepared for it, said Col. William Seely Lee, senior chaplain of the Maryland National Guard.

"We don't want to be a liability," said Lee, of Bel Air. "We want to be able to keep ourselves safe."

When entering the service, chaplains go through a 12-week Chaplain Officer Basic Course, which teaches them most everything about soldiering, from marching to crawling under barbed wire—except how to handle a weapon. Chaplains are pro-

hibited by Army regulations from bearing arms.

Many of the Maryland National Guard chaplains said that in the years since basic training, they've become more accustomed to handling homilies than survival skills—which also has left them less physically fit than the average soldier. And though they're prepared to counsel those coming off the battlefield, they weren't ready to find themselves on it.

"These skills are perishable," said Maj. W. Ray Williams, a chaplain from Glen Burnie. "You don't use them, you lose them."

So far, only one chaplain has been seriously wounded, according to the Army Chief of Chaplains office. Timothy Vakoc, a Roman Catholic priest from Minnesota, was injured when a bomb blew up next to his Humvee last May as he was returning from presiding over Mass for soldiers in Mosul.

His injury was a reminder that this is a war without front lines, Lee said. Mortar shells rain down without warning. Hidden snipers take potshots. A peaceful mission can suddenly turn deadly.

That's exactly the message Master Sgt. Wayne Henderson tried to get across as he lectured the chaplains last week.

"Over there, it can go south at any time," he said.

Chaplains aren't completely without protection in war zones. They are accompanied at all times by assistants, armed soldiers who act as bodyguards—or, as Williams put it, "the hammer of God."

During training, the assistants practiced keeping the chaplains in tow as they ran an obstacle course designed to simulate an urban battlefield.

Assistants, whose sole responsibility is to protect the chaplains,

should always be looking ahead, he said, their weapons pointed forward. During an escape, Henderson counseled, chaplains should essentially run backwards, keeping an eye on the periphery.

When it was Chaplain Ronald Martin-Mimich's turn to charge through the course last week, he held on tightly to his assistant, a staff sergeant, who told him: "We'll run to the car, sir, staying low. Okay, let's go!"

After they sprinted the 20 yards and crouched behind the car, staff sergeant chastised his charge: "You've got to get down, sir."

Then they were off again.

Henderson paced the course, critiquing the pairs' technique, telling them to move faster and stay lower, exhorting them to stay alert for snipers in the shadows.

In between drills, he dispensed rapid-fire advice: Never sleep during a convoy. Keep a safe distance from anyone suspicious. Stay close to your assistant.

For Carr, the training was a reminder that in addition to blessing the dead and leading troops in prayer, he'll need to know what to do when the bullets start flying.

# Year's best music comes to front with Grammys, Doves

BY BRIAN BOWERS

Stars and Stripes

Selecting the best music of the year can produce interesting—and confusing—results.

Looking over last weekend's Grammy Award winners and the recent nominations for the Gospel Music Association's Dove awards, we learn the following:

■ One song can make a big difference. Evidence: Michael W. Smith.

Smitty garnered eight Dove nominations based primarily on "Healing Rain," a tremendous song about God's healing gifts. However, the CD "Healing Rain" has been criticized as a throwback to Smith's work in the 1980s. By the way, his work was ignored by the Grammy folks.

■ Oldies can be goodies. Evidence: Switchfoot.

The rock group received five Dove nominations and frontman Jonathan Foreman received another two, primarily for work on the exceptional disc "Beautiful Letdown." The disc made a big impact on the mainstream market with several hit singles that were released in 2004. I guess we can overlook the fact that Switchfoot took home three Doves last year—for work on the same CD.

■ Newcomers are OK. Evidence: Casting Crowns.

Watching Casting Crowns and their frontman Mark Hall could take home 10 Doves. However, they aren't the only unfamiliar names on the list of Dove nominees. Singer Bethany Dillon is vying for Female Vocalist of the Year and rock groups Day of Fire, Barlow Girl and Hawk Nelson received nominations in hotly contested categories.

■ Hip-hop's here. Evidence: "Welcome To My City," by Tobymac, and the compilation disc "Holy Hip Hop: Taking The Gospel To The Streets."

Both discs were nominated for the Grammy for Best Rock Gospel Album. They



AP photos

Above: Members of Third Day accept the award for best rock gospel album "Wire" at the 47th Annual Grammy Awards last Sunday. Right: Jeremy Camp performs during the Gospel Music Association Awards show last year in Nashville, Tenn. Camp won awards for Male Vocalist and New Artist of the Year. He's up for three more Dove awards in 2005, including Male Vocalist of the Year on the heels of his third album, "Restored."

didn't win but they were there. However, it does irk me that the Grammy folks nominated a compilation disc instead of a specific act, such as Grits, which gave us the strong "Dichotomy A" and quickly followed with "Dichotomy B."

For the record, the Grammy for Best Pop/Contemporary Gospel Album went to Steven Curtis Chapman's "All Things New" and the award for Best Rock Gospel Album went to "Wire," by Third Day. Both were solid choices.

The Dove Awards ceremony will be held April 13 in Nashville, Tenn.

### Disc tip

A year after receiving the Dove for Best New Artist, Jeremy Camp can consider

himself established.

On the heels of the release of his third CD, "Restored," Camp has been nominated for three Doves, including Male Vocalist of the Year, and has just been named Favorite Artist and Favorite Male Artist by readers of CCM magazine.

Camp's new disc is aptly titled, reflecting not only a spiritual journey of restoration but also his own life story since the release of his debut disc, "Stay." Camp's reputation for insightful, hard-hitting songs was built on "Stay," which was heavily influenced by the death of his first wife from cancer. Since his debut, he has married Adrienne Liesching, the former lead singer of the Benjamin Gate, and become a father.

The new disc is filled with praise and a

feeling of peace. It opens with the title track, a rocker featuring Camp's throaty vocals describing the healing of a broken soul. Camp offers a few other assertive tracks, such as "Lay Down My Pride," but most of the disc consists of more melodic and contemplative songs. Many of the tracks — "Take You Back" and "Even When" — examine God's willingness to reconcile with those who had rejected him or made big mistakes.

Overall, "Restored" offers a different and deeper look at life and at Jeremy Camp. It's a view worth taking in.

On the Web: [www.jeremycamp.com](http://www.jeremycamp.com).

Today's Prize is a roundup of news and reviews from the contemporary Christian music industry. It appears on the Religion page.

E-mail Brian Bowers at: [bowers@stripes.com](mailto:bowers@stripes.com)



# Sunday Horoscope

The moon is void of course, making it a lovely time for loafing. Everyone has the voice of a Type A personality somewhere deep inside that will protest the idea of eating chips and watching the television as if it were in danger of being stolen away at any given second. But sometimes giving the id what it wants is the fastest way back to productivity.

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**February 20.** The ideas you come up with this year could make you rich. Value yourself and your brainchildren, and the world finds value in you. Romance has a giddy quality all spring. Singles have fun flirting with the possibilities for settling down. Summer features education. The more you learn, the more you earn. Love signs are Sagittarius and Cancer.

## ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Are you innocent, an urchin on an adventure, face to face with a looming choice. Do you dare to open Door No. 37? You have no idea who's waiting. The only way to find out is to turn the handle.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

When you're searching for a hideout, it's a sign that there's something you need to confront. Instead of weighing the options and thinking about how to play a situation, trust yourself enough to jump in. You'll be fine.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

The temporal nature of this life is profound in your mind. As the Five for Fighting song notes, "I'm 33 for a moment," or 15 or 99. Have the courage to embody your "moment."

## CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Put on some skates, jump on the trampoline, or take a trip to the amusement park. Doing something to recapture your youth fills you with joy, health and hope. Sagittarius and Gemini make the best partners in fun.

## LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Daily rituals are important to your sense of well-being. A balanced life depends on actions you can comfort-

ably repeat. It's probably up to you to preserve the dignity of a tradition, like no cell phones at the family dinner table.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You want it bad now, so don't try — do. As far as that possibility goes, you'd be surprised at what is really possible when excuses are no longer an option. Even an irrational decision can be reversed.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

You're strong now and will remain so if you make a point to shun all pally and sympathy, especially the kind you give yourself. A change in your appearance will bring favorable results. Risk it.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

When you know what you want (like you do today), almost any path leads to it. Make inquiries. Doors swing open wide. Get out and circulate. You bring lucky people into your life and renew old contacts.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

With a peek into someone else's life, you expand your view of your own. You're looking for definable, moral guidelines but will likely discover there's more gray area than you ever imagined. This should be freeing.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Dare to disagree. The odd man is not "out," he's never been "in." You could be privy to special information or invited into an exclusive situation because you're so different from the rest.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

When people come together for a high-minded cause, it's nothing to take for granted. You'll act in a way to protect the integrity of a group by making sure that all parties are present and accountable.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

New information you get today is like the lightning that hit Ben Franklin's key. Sure, it's shocking, but it could also be turned into something hugely meaningful and useful. Think it over.

Creators Syndicate

## Holiday Mathis



# Woman can't force fiancé's parents to love her, daughter

safely address them to you.

**Dear Abby:** I'm a successful, 25-year-old professional woman, in an amazing relationship with a man I'll call "Riley." We plan to be married in June.

The worm in the apple is this: His parents are not happy with the fact that I have an 8-year-old daughter, "Kyrre." I was raped at 16 and chose to keep my baby.

Riley loves Kyrre, and vice versa. But Riley's parents can't accept Kyrre and me. It hurts my daughter not to be accepted, just as it hurts me. Riley has talked to his parents about the situation, but they are stubborn. How can I get his parents to love us as their son has?

**— Hurt in the Midwest**  
*Dear Hurt:* You could claim their love from now until the cows come home, but you can't instill love in someone's heart if it isn't there to begin with. And you're by some miracle able to achieve it, it could take years.

Even if Riley demanded that his mother and father treat you and your daughter with kindness and respect, there is no guarantee they would comply. Please take this into consideration before proceeding with your wedding plans.

**Dear Abby:** I am the mother of a 9-year-old daughter, "Bianca," who lives with her father. While Bianca was visiting me last summer, she noticed that she was "changing" physically. I took it upon myself to talk with my daughter about her changes and all of the things that came with going through puberty, including getting her monthly cycle.

Bianca came back to visit at Christmas and informed me that her father and stepmother have told her that she is too young to talk about her cycle. I want to confront them about this, but how do I do it without being offensive? Bianca's father is very controlling and has a temper, and the smallest statement always leads to chaos. I am worried that my daughter may be punished because she told me what they said to her.

**— Worried in the Southwest**  
*Dear Worried:* You have the right thing in talking to your daughter. Your ex-husband and his wife appear to be ignorant of the fact that girls are maturing at younger and younger ages, and need to know what to expect as their bodies develop. Rather than "confronting" them, make it clear to Bianca that if she has any questions, she can always



# No harm in son's fiancée calling her future in-laws Mom and Dad

**Dear Annie:** We have two children — "Jan," our 34-year-old married daughter, and "Ben," age 38, who is engaged to "Iris."

Iris is a wonderful person, and we are so excited that our son finally has found someone to settle down with. The problem is that Iris calls us "Mom and Dad," and our daughter does not like this.

She believes Iris is not entitled to call us by those titles because we are not family. Jan says Iris is being disrespectful.

Jan becomes enraged whenever we are together and she hears Iris refer to us as Mom and Dad. After one of those visits, Jan was on the phone the next day, ranting and raving about Iris. Ben thinks his sister is jealous and spoiled.

My husband and I are very flattered that our future daughter-in-law feels comfortable enough to call us "Mom and Dad," and we don't mind it one bit. In fact, we actually like it, but we worry that we are not being supportive of Jan if we let it continue.

This past holiday season was a

nightmare because of Jan's sensitivity, and we don't know how to handle this without hurting anyone's feelings. My sister thinks if we side with Jan, we will alienate Iris and possibly Ben, without really helping our daughter.

Sis says Jan needs to grow up now. Any suggestions? We really need your advice.

## Annie's Mailbox



## A Soon-to-Be Mom-in-Law

**Dear Mom:** We tend to agree with your sister. Jan sounds jealous and insecure, and you need to make it quite clear that she does not get to set the rules in your relationships. She may not like it, but being "supportive" does not mean caving in.

Since you like being called "Mom and Dad," and Iris is eager to do it, let her. She soon will be a member of the family and should be treated as a daughter. This will undoubtedly make Jan uneasy. She's been queen of the nest for 34 years. Try to reassure her that she's not losing a brother, she is gaining a sister — and someone who could turn out to be a best friend as well, if she will allow it.

**Dear Abby:** Even as a young girl, I have always loved horses. I have recently taken on the joyful responsibility of leasing a friend's horse, to help out with expenses, and also to learn what it would be like to actually own my own horse.

It has been only three months, and I have spent three times the amount of money that my "friend" has, and have done 10 of the labor to boot. By "labor," I mean cleaning horses, mucking out the stalls, cleaning water buckets and feed bins, cleaning the office, and even picking up her daughter and bringing her to and from the barn.

My question is, how do people like my "friend" continue to look themselves in the eye after taking advantage of an honest, sincere sucker?

## — Taken For a Ride in Chesapeake, Md.

**Dear Taken For a Ride:** Three months is a pretty long ride. A more pertinent question would be, Why have you allowed it to continue? My advice is to look at all the things you have learned from this experience, and in the future, resist the urge to be so "helpful."

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be sent to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, P.O. Box 6906, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.anniesmailbox.com> or [abby@creators.com](mailto:abby@creators.com). Universal Press Syndicate

**Dear Annie:** I am a very nervous passenger when I travel in an automobile, and I do not like to drive. My husband is a very good driver and has not had an accident. However, that does not make it any easier for me.

As I get older, it is getting worse. I am apprehensive from the time we get out of the driveway until we return home. My husband has adjusted his driving to make me more comfortable, but it makes no difference. Listening to music over headphones doesn't help, and reading makes me car sick. I'd rather not take anything to make me sleep the entire time. Any suggestions?

## — Doomed to Stay in the House

**Dear Doomed:** It sounds as if you have an anxiety disorder, and without treatment, you may get worse. Treatment involves therapy, medication (that won't knock you out), or a combination of the two. For further information, contact Anxiety Disorders Association of America ([www.adaa.org](http://www.adaa.org)), 8730 Georgia Avenue, Suite 600, Silver Spring, Md., 20911.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathi Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the For Lovers column. Please e-mail your questions to [abby@creators.com](mailto:abby@creators.com), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 577 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Creators Syndicate

# 'Big Easy' once a book title

What is the source of the nickname "The Big Easy" for New Orleans?

New Orleans, like many other distinctive cities, has a good handful of nicknames, but none is as well known as "The Big Easy."

According to our research, it first showed up in 1970 as the title of a novel about New Orleans by James Conaway.

The 1970 book was made into a popular movie in 1986, and from that point the term became much more widely used.

Conaway is often credited

with inventing the famous name himself, although one of our citations from a 1988 article in Harper's Magazine suggests otherwise: "Labeling was conjuring up the city before 1960 (...) It was a poor, peculiar, happy place, (...) Only local black people and a handful of hipsters knew to call it the Big Easy." As it stands, however, we have no written evidence of "The Big Easy" prior to Conaway's 1970 novel.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 261, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.



## YOUR MONEY



Tresia Eaves was hired as a Sentel Corporation project manager. As a former Air Force captain with 13 years of software development experience, she offered Sentel technical and management skills, as well as experience dealing with bureaucracy.

## Special skills give applicants a leg up on jobs

BY JANE HILL

The Dallas Morning News

Client investment bank seeks hands-on developer. Must have five to 10 years technical experience, experience working in Microsoft development environment, excellent communication skills, financial knowledge plus Treasury business knowledge desirable.

When ads appear on job websites, thousands of résumés highlighting the required technical skills land on the desk of the hiring manager.

But any developer who also has specialized industry knowledge will surely rise to the top of the pile.

Paul Rector, recruiting director at NewData Strategies, said specialized knowledge is desirable in health care, banking and shipping and distribution. Hiring managers in those industries often request information technology candidates who can demonstrate that they understand the business.

"Managers need someone who has been through the hoops because it greatly reduces the learning curve," he said.

Most applicants who have the required technical skills could adequately handle the work while picking up the vocabulary particular to the industry or business fundamentals on the job, he said. The hiring manager, though, "doesn't have the luxury of time."

Dan Ortmann developed his specialization in technology support working on the trading floors in lower Manhattan for Goldman Sachs Group Inc. After 16 years with the investment company and

two cross-country relocations, his job was eliminated two years ago. He lost his job but not his enthusiasm for the industry.

"I've got an affinity for it," he said.

Now a consultant on a long-term contract in Dallas, Ortmann said his understanding of the industry probably helped him land his dream job as a technology manager for one of Goldman Sachs' biggest competitors.

In an employee's market, industry specialization may not matter, Ortmann said.

"But in an employer's market, employers can ask for 12 out of 10 requirements and they can get it. In days gone by, if you had seven out of 10, you were hired."

Tresia Eaves manages 24 software developers who speak the language of deductions and exemptions. They update the software that Internal Revenue Service agents rely upon in the field.

As division director for Sentel Corp., a contractor for the IRS, she manages the project, including software development.

Eaves was hired not for her tax expertise but because she knows how government agencies work.

As a former Air Force captain with 13 years of software development experience, she offered Sentel her technical and management skills combined with experience dealing with bureaucracy.

Appreciating what IRS field agents do is particularly helpful in meetings, Eaves said.

"There's a feeling of comfort you give the customer when you use their vocabulary and can talk about the goals of the organization," she said.

## Two Internet music stores with two different pitches

### Napster builds library; iTunes sells the songs

BY JOHN M. MORAN

The Hartford (R.I.) Courant

While the recent Super Bowl was under way, two hard-nosed opponents were squaring off in high-profile commercials targeting roughly the same audience.

On one side was Apple's iTunes digital music service, far and away the most popular place to buy songs over the Internet. Pay 99 cents for a song and then download it to your personal computer or iPod portable music device.

As it did last year, Apple is promoting iTunes by teaming up with Pepsi to give away thousands of free songs. Redeemable "coupons" are found beneath some Pepsi bottle caps. (You may remember the commercial showing people listening to music coming from inside their soda bottles.) Yet as the Super Bowl TV commercials also showed, iTunes is facing upstart competition from a reborn Napster, which is now a digital music service of its own. What makes the contest between iTunes and Napster truly fascinating isn't the commercials, but rather the different approaches to selling music online that they represent.

The model pursued by Apple's iTunes is familiar enough. You pay to download a song and, within certain limits on copying, you own it.

It's the online equivalent of buying a music CD at the mall. And thanks to Apple's runaway hit, the iPod portable music player,

you can easily carry those songs around with you wherever you go.

But Napster takes a radically different approach that essentially says: Why buy a little music when you can rent much more of it instead? Consider that it costs about \$15 for 15 iTunes downloads. But that same \$15 would buy a month's worth of unlimited access to Napster's giant music collection. In short, for the cost of a single audio CD, Napster gives you access to thousands.

But unlike iTunes, you can't burn these songs to a CD, and they will play only as long as your Napster subscription remains active.



Samsung's Napster-branded player and the "Napster To Go" service offer digital music lovers the same kind of portability that has made the iPod a household word.

And with its "Napster To Go" service, Napster has managed to offer digital music lovers the same kind of portability that has made the iPod a household word.

The question now is whether consumers are ready to shift their way of thinking about how music is acquired and used.

The iTunes approach has more or less been around since grandpa fired up the old 78 rpm record player. You pay for the music and it's yours forever. People know that approach and, judging by historical music sales figures, they're comfortable with it.

But the vision promoted by Napster argues that if you really love music, you're better off leasing it. And there's some pretty compelling logic to support that view.

Figure it this way: Even if you

buy a new CD every month, in five years you will still only have a modest collection of 60 CDs. That's hardly enough to satisfy even casual listeners, much less hard-core music lovers.

For that same expenditure, Napster says, you could have one of the biggest music collections in the world. Thousands of titles by hundreds of artists, all just a mouse-click away.

Such a collection would cost tens of thousands of dollars to buy, putting it out of the reach of all but the most dedicated — and richest — music fans. At \$15 a month, it's affordable by almost anyone.

The buy-vs.-rent calculation only leans in favor of people who listen to a lot of different music. After all, if you're satisfied hearing the same handful of songs played over and over, month after month, you probably should just buy them and be done with it.

But music fanatics, families with diverse and changing musical tastes, and even people who just want hassle-free variety might decide that renting music beats owning it after all.



## YOUR MONEY

# 'Under the table' wages don't pay for retirement

**Q** A good friend of mine is quickly approaching retirement age but has always worked "under the table" as a housekeeper or nanny. She hasn't been able to save money over the years and she's getting a little too old to scrub floors or chase after toddlers. Is there any way she could qualify for Social Security benefits?

**A** If she's married and her spouse has paid into Social Security for at least 10 years, she could claim a benefit based on his work record. If she's not married now but was married for at least 10 years to someone who paid into the system, she also could qualify.

Otherwise, she's pretty much out of luck. This is why workers — and household employers — should avoid under-the-table arrangements like the plague. The short-term savings on taxes have real long-term implications on people's lives.

**Q** The letter from the son who was supporting his family hit a nerve. My divorced mother makes a very decent living, but her expenses are such that she is always short on cash. Because my parents were not financially responsible over the years, my mom has no investments, savings or other "safety nets" to assist her, and she is generally not very good with money. My mom has no qualms about borrowing money from me, usually \$100 to

\$500, which she repays over several months. Now, though, she's asking me for a \$5,000 loan for further schooling. Until now, the loans so far haven't affected my husband and me negatively, aside from the interest we pay on the credit card balances we owe for her spending. But \$5,000 is a lot of money. Plus, I feel like she should have figured out how to be self-sufficient by now and I'm merely enabling her irresponsible behavior. Do you have an advice?

**A** Instead of lending her more money, how about buying her a few hours with a financial planner who can teach her a bit about budgeting, saving and investing?

These obviously aren't lessons she's learned in her lifetime, and a neutral third party might help her grasp the importance of saving for her own future.

To pave the way, you might visit the planner first yourself. Then you can rave to your mom about how much you've learned and present the session as a gift to her.

The planner, by the way, will probably point out that these loans are affecting your family negatively. You shouldn't be carrying credit card balances at all, and certainly not for someone else's irresponsible spending. That includes \$5,000 for

schooling. If she's making a good living, she can save the money herself or get a student loan in her own name.

**Q** I recently had to take issue with your recommendation not to ask a credit card company to lower an excessively high credit card limit. I have no quibble with your answer from the point of view of protecting your credit score, but what if you considered the ever-present fraud implications?

Carrying what may amount to tens of thousands of dollars of unnecessary credit leaves a consumer (and the card issuer) open for fraud. If her card number were misappropriated, the thieves would have a field day running up charges before they hit her limit.

I speak from personal experience. Even though I guard my card like a hawk, my card number somehow made it to Italy last summer, resulting in a \$6,000 fraudulent charge. Had I watched my limits more closely, and asked for it to be lowered, the loss would have been much, much smaller. My inattentiveness cost Visa \$6,000, a cost it will surely pass along to its customer base one way or another.

**A** Actually, Visa says fraud losses among its member banks have never been

lower. The credit card industry today uses sophisticated software to spot and halt suspicious transactions, which has greatly improved its ability to combat fraud.

Any credit card fraud, of course, can increase costs for merchants and lenders which could ultimately be passed on to borrowers. But it doesn't necessarily follow that consumers should take the risk of damaging their credit scores by asking lenders to lower their credit limits. Consumers don't usually reap a benefit from lower limits; victims of credit card fraud typically owe nothing as the result of these crimes, since most card issuers waive the \$50 fee that could be charged.

A better course might be to simply monitor your accounts more closely, which is easily done by phone or online. A recent survey by Javelin Research found that victims of identity theft who monitored their accounts online detected the crime much faster and significantly limited the losses. The average loss for accounts monitored online was \$551, compared to \$4,543 when the victims waited for paper statements.

Liz Pulliam Weston is the author of "Your Credit Score: How to Fix, Improve and Protect the 3-Digit Number That Shapes Your Financial Future." Questions for Money Talk can be submitted to her at 3940 Laurel Canyon Blvd., No. 238, Studio City, CA 91604, or via her Web site, www.lizweston.com. She requires that she cannot respond personally to queries.

## Money Talk



Liz Pulliam Weston

## THURSDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES				
52-week	High	Low	Name	YTD % Chg
10,858.81	9,708.40	10,745.35	Dow Jones Industrial	+0.58
3,822.82	2,743.46	3,804.19	Dow Jones Transportation	-18.49
25,556.86	22,107.24	25,556.86	S&P 500	+1.41
7,131.59	6,211.33	7,272.54	NASDAQ Composite	-34.22
1,326.25	1,150.74	1,326.25	AMEX Index	+9.35
1,250.25	1,250.82	1,250.25	Nasdaq Composite	-26.39
1,217.80	1,060.72	1,217.80	S&P 500	-2.59
662.67	548.29	662.67	S&P MidCap	-62.09
656.16	515.99	656.16	Russell 2000	-63.14
12,248.36	10,308.52	12,248.36	DJ Wilshire 5000	-40.51

NYSE				
Most Active (\$1 or more)	Name	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Name	Most Active (\$1 or more)
Volume	Vol	Vol	Vol	Vol
1,229	SPUR	5,885	124.2	-0.8
2,411.1	SPUR	5,885	124.2	-0.8
2,411.1	SPUR	5,885	124.2	-0.8
2,411.1	SPUR	5,885	124.2	-0.8
2,411.1	SPUR	5,885	124.2	-0.8
2,411.1	SPUR	5,885	124.2	-0.8
2,411.1	SPUR	5,885	124.2	-0.8
2,411.1	SPUR	5,885	124.2	-0.8
2,411.1	SPUR	5,885	124.2	-0.8
2,411.1	SPUR	5,885	124.2	-0.8

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS				
Name	High	Low	YTD % Chg	Vol
Boeing	107.89	107.89	+0.4	1,229
Lockheed Martin	107.89	107.89	+0.4	1,229
Raytheon	107.89	107.89	+0.4	1,229
General Dynamics	107.89	107.89	+0.4	1,229
Northrop Grumman	107.89	107.89	+0.4	1,229
Boeing	107.89	107.89	+0.4	1,229
Lockheed Martin	107.89	107.89	+0.4	1,229
Raytheon	107.89	107.89	+0.4	1,229
General Dynamics	107.89	107.89	+0.4	1,229
Northrop Grumman	107.89	107.89	+0.4	1,229

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS				
Name	High	Low	YTD % Chg	Vol
Fidelity Asset Manager	37.42	37.42	-0.8	1,229
Fidelity Asset Manager	37.42	37.42	-0.8	1,229
Fidelity Asset Manager	37.42	37.42	-0.8	1,229
Fidelity Asset Manager	37.42	37.42	-0.8	1,229
Fidelity Asset Manager	37.42	37.42	-0.8	1,229
Fidelity Asset Manager	37.42	37.42	-0.8	1,229
Fidelity Asset Manager	37.42	37.42	-0.8	1,229
Fidelity Asset Manager	37.42	37.42	-0.8	1,229
Fidelity Asset Manager	37.42	37.42	-0.8	1,229
Fidelity Asset Manager	37.42	37.42	-0.8	1,229

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		
Japanese yen (Feb. 18)	103.00	
South Korean won (Feb. 18)	1,000.00	
Euro costs (Feb. 18)	67.34	
Dollar buys (Feb. 18)	0.7578	
British pound (Feb. 18)	0.5948	
Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3760	
British pound	0.5948	
Canada (Dollar)	1.2591	
Denmark (Krone)	2.1963	
Egypt (Pound)	0.8116	
Euro	\$1,307.50/1,000	
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.9996	
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.9996	
Iceland (Krona)	60.47	
Israel (Sheqel)	106.55	
Japan (Yen)	103.00	
Kuwait (Dinar)	2.913	
Norway (Krone)	6.4118	
Philippines (Peso)	46.80	
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	1.7501	
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2591	
South Korea (Won)	1,000.00	
Taiwan (Dollar)	34.55	
Thailand (Baht)	34.55	
Turkey (New Lira)	1.4045	
U.S. dollar	1.0000	
U.S. dollar	1.0000	
U.S. dollar	1.0000	
U.S. dollar	1.0000	
U.S. dollar	1.0000	

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for non-U.S. military exchange rates. For non-U.S. military exchange rates, see the U.S. Department of Defense, Office of Military Exchange Rates, www.dod.mil/exchange.)

## PRECIOUS METALS

New York Mercile		
Gold	\$427.30	
Silver	\$7.305	
Platinum	\$1,000.00	
Palladium	\$1,000.00	
Rhodium	\$1,000.00	
Iridium	\$1,000.00	
Osmium	\$1,000.00	
Severium	\$1,000.00	
Unlabeled	\$1,000.00	
Unlabeled	\$1,000.00	
Unlabeled	\$1,000.00	

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate		
Discount rate	5.50	
Federal funds rate	5.50	
3-month bill	2.58	
30-year bond	5.50	
Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America		

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# FIRST COM

## Cents and Sensibility

### Money tip of the day

## Consider using coupons

**MARKETWATCH** For coupons for different brands, consider your brand loyalty before you buy. Do you always buy Brand X over Brand Y because X is cheaper? Or does X taste better? Remember, a coupon doesn't save you anything if you won't use.

Be wary when it comes to coupons for items you don't normally buy.

In this case, the coupon can actually cause you to lose money because you're adding to your shopping list rather than spending less on the items already on it.

To get the most out of your coupons, try to use them when you buy local supermarket items, doubling or tripling promotions. This way you can spend almost nothing on the things you need.

Keep track of how much you save every week through coupons. You might put the extra money into a rainy-day fund to save up for something fun, or you could invest it.

The National Council on Economic Education recommends that you clip coupons and sort them into three piles: brands of things your family typically purchases, brands other than what your family typically purchases and items your family doesn't usually purchase.

Take advantage of sales and coupons to stock up on items your family uses. If you know, for example, that you need to buy peanut butter every week because your children want peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches every day, it makes sense to buy multiple jars at the sale price.

Prime rate 5.50  
Discount rate 5.50  
Federal funds rate 5.50  
3-month bill 2.58  
30-year bond 5.50  
Source: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Discover why so many people are saying...

First Command

www.FirstCommand.com



## JAPAN TV (BILGUAL, SPORTS, MOVIES AND MUSIC)

## SUN, FEB. 20

**Morning**  
10:00 "Shogi" Lesson/NHK Trophy "Shogi" Tournament (3)

11:30 All Japan College Women's All Japan (marathon relay)(12)

**Afternoon**  
12:00 "Go" Lesson/NHK Trophy "Go" Tournament (1)

1:30 Japan Pro Ball: Giants' Training Camp Special (4)

3:45 Japan Ice Hockey Championship: Final (3)

4:30 NHK Charity Grand Sumo (1)

5:00 NHK Racing (12)

**Evening**  
7:00 News (1)

8:55 PGA European Tour: 2004 dunhill links Championship Highlights (4)

9:00 Classical Music: NHK Symphony Orchestra - Haydn's Symphony No. 101, in D Major "The Clock" (conductor: Nello Sant'ol)

9:00 ... Spanish-French Movie (10)

10:00 Classical Music: NHK Information/Friedrich Schiller Memorial Concert ( pianists: Martha Argerich, Gulda and Rito Gulda; in choir: Renaud Capuçon, conductor: Christian Arming)(13)

11:30 Friends (42)

## WOWOW

## SUN, FEB. 20

**Morning**  
8:30 U.S. Movie (1967): In the Heat of the Night (2:30)

10:30 U.S. Movie (1972): The Godfather (2:30)

**Afternoon**  
12:30 U.S. Movie (1986): The Color of Money (2:30)

1:30 French-Polish Movie (1995): Shine (1:50)

2:00 U.S. Movie (1992): The Piano (2:30)

**Evening**  
10:00 U.S. Movie (1995): Leaving Las Vegas (1:54)

10:30 Pro. Boxing: WBC Light Flyweight Championship - Jorge Linares vs. Scott Conton (1:30)

2:00 U.S. Movie (2002): The Real World: The Last Season (1:30)

4:55 Spanish Soccer Liga Espanola

## MON, FEB. 21

**Morning**  
6:10 PGA Golf: Nissan Open

8:10 World News (9)

11:10 BS Documentary: Arteriosclerosis - New Drug (7)

12:10 ABC News

12:30 World Golf Championship: Pre-View

1:30 China International Men's 12x & Women's 6x Cross-Country (2:30)

4:10 2005 World Alpine Skiing Championships Highlights (2:30)

5:10 World Golf Championships Pre-View (2:30)

5:50 CNN News

6:10 BS Documentary: World Population (12/27)

8:10 BS Documentary: World Population (27/27)

11:15 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championships: Jump

1:10 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championships: Cross-Country

2:10 - Games

3:10 World of FIFA

4:10 Railway Adventures Across U.S.A.

## MON, FEB. 21

**Morning**  
1:00 Thunderbirds (3)(r)

1:25 Soccer: FA Cup - Everton vs. Manchester United (5)

**Afternoon**  
12:30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (12)

1:30 U.S. Movie (1997): Recall (2:30)

5:50 News (6)

**Evening**  
7:00 News (1)

10:00 News (1)

10:00 Nikita (42)

1:55 Japan Pro Boxing (6)

2:45 Star Trek: DS9 (6)

## TUE, FEB. 22

**Morning**  
10:25 Korean Drama: Sangdoof Let's Go To School O.S.T. (4)

**Afternoon**  
12:30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (12)

1:30 U.S. Movie (1983): Lone Wolf McQuinn (2:00)(12)

5:50 News (6)

**Evening**  
7:15 Oswald #36

7:30 U.S. Movie (1995): Some Like It Hot (2:35)

12:00 TV Series: Third Watch

1:30 U.S. Movie (2000): Highlander: The Search for Vengeance (2:30)

3:00 U.S. Movie (1965): The Godfather Part II (2:30)

5:00 U.S. Movie (1995): Leaving Las Vegas (1:54)

5:50 News (6)

6:10 BS Documentary: World Population (12/27)

8:10 BS Documentary: World Population (27/27)

11:15 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championships: Jump

1:10 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championships: Cross-Country

2:10 - Games

3:10 World of FIFA

4:10 Railway Adventures Across U.S.A.

5:10 World News

5:50 News (6)

6:10 BS Documentary: World Population (12/27)

8:10 BS Documentary: World Population (27/27)

11:15 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championships: Jump

1:10 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championships: Cross-Country

2:10 - Games

3:10 World of FIFA

4:10 Railway Adventures Across U.S.A.

5:10 World News

5:50 News (6)

6:10 BS Documentary: World Population (12/27)

## WED, FEB. 16

**Morning**  
7:00 News (1)

7:30 U.S. Movie (1995): The Substitute (2:00)(12)

9:30 U.S. Movie (1998): Blade (2:00)(12)

10:00 News (1)

10:00 Football: CL: Serie A/Pre-Liga: Lazio vs. Lazio (1:30)

10:30 U.S. Movie (1995): Tokyo Verdy (4)

10:50 News (1)

11:00 Nikita (42)

1:55 Japan Pro Boxing (6)

2:45 Star Trek: DS9 (6)

5:00 U.S. Movie (1995): The Substitute (2:00)(12)

9:30 U.S. Movie (1998): Blade (2:00)(12)

10:00 News (1)

10:00 American Movie: La Viaccia (2:08)(4)

2:34 TV Series: Bull (6)

5:00 News (1)

5:50 News (6)

6:10 BS Documentary: World Population (12/27)

8:10 BS Documentary: World Population (27/27)

11:15 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championships: Jump

1:10 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championships: Cross-Country

2:10 - Games

3:10 World of FIFA

4:10 Railway Adventures Across U.S.A.

5:10 World News

5:50 News (6)

6:10 BS Documentary: World Population (12/27)

8:10 BS Documentary: World Population (27/27)

11:15 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championships: Jump

1:10 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championships: Cross-Country

2:10 - Games

3:10 World of FIFA

4:10 Railway Adventures Across U.S.A.

5:10 World News

5:50 News (6)

6:10 BS Documentary: World Population (12/27)

8:10 BS Documentary: World Population (27/27)

11:15 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championships: Jump

1:10 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championships: Cross-Country

2:10 - Games

3:10 World of FIFA

4:10 Railway Adventures Across U.S.A.

## FRI, FEB. 25

**Morning**  
7:00 News (1)

7:30 U.S. Movie (1995): The Substitute (2:00)(12)

9:30 U.S. Movie (1998): Blade (2:00)(12)

10:00 News (1)

10:00 Football: CL: Serie A/Pre-Liga: Lazio vs. Lazio (1:30)

10:30 U.S. Movie (1995): Tokyo Verdy (4)

10:50 News (1)

11:00 Nikita (42)

1:55 Japan Pro Boxing (6)

2:45 Star Trek: DS9 (6)

5:00 U.S. Movie (1995): The Substitute (2:00)(12)

9:30 U.S. Movie (1998): Blade (2:00)(12)

10:00 News (1)

10:00 American Movie: La Viaccia (2:08)(4)

2:34 TV Series: Bull (6)

5:00 News (1)

5:50 News (6)

6:10 BS Documentary: World Population (12/27)

8:10 BS Documentary: World Population (27/27)

11:15 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championships: Jump

1:10 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championships: Cross-Country

2:10 - Games

3:10 World of FIFA

4:10 Railway Adventures Across U.S.A.

5:10 World News

5:50 News (6)

6:10 BS Documentary: World Population (12/27)

8:10 BS Documentary: World Population (27/27)

11:15 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championships: Jump

1:10 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championships: Cross-Country

2:10 - Games

3:10 World of FIFA

4:10 Railway Adventures Across U.S.A.

5:10 World News

5:50 News (6)

6:10 BS Documentary: World Population (12/27)

8:10 BS Documentary: World Population (27/27)

11:15 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championships: Jump

1:10 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championships: Cross-Country

2:10 - Games

3:10 World of FIFA

4:10 Railway Adventures Across U.S.A.

## SAT, FEB. 26

**Morning**  
7:00 News (1)

7:30 U.S. Movie (1995): The Substitute (2:00)(12)

9:30 U.S. Movie (1998): Blade (2:00)(12)

10:00 News (1)

10:00 Football: CL: Serie A/Pre-Liga: Lazio vs. Lazio (1:30)

10:30 U.S. Movie (1995): Tokyo Verdy (4)

10:50 News (1)

11:00 Nikita (42)

1:55 Japan Pro Boxing (6)

2:45 Star Trek: DS9 (6)

5:00 U.S. Movie (1995): The Substitute (2:00)(12)

9:30 U.S. Movie (1998): Blade (2:00)(12)

10:00 News (1)

10:00 American Movie: La Viaccia (2:08)(4)

2:34 TV Series: Bull (6)

5:00 News (1)

5:50 News (6)

6:10 BS Documentary: World Population (12/27)

8:10 BS Documentary: World Population (27/27)

11:15 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championships: Jump

1:10 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championships: Cross-Country

2:10 - Games

3:10 World of FIFA

4:10 Railway Adventures Across U.S.A.

5:10 World News

5:50 News (6)

6:10 BS Documentary: World Population (12/27)

8:10 BS Documentary: World Population (27/27)

11:15 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championships: Jump

1:10 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championships: Cross-Country

2:10 - Games

3:10 World of FIFA

4:10 Railway Adventures Across U.S.A.

5:10 World News

5:50 News (6)

6:10 BS Documentary: World Population (12/27)

8:10 BS Documentary: World Population (27/27)

11:15 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championships: Jump

1:10 2005 World Nordic Skiing Championships: Cross-Country

2:10 - Games

3:10 World of FIFA

4:10 Railway Adventures Across U.S.A.

## MTV

## SUN, FEB. 20

**Morning**  
8:00 Diary: Omarion

8:30 Diary: Omarion

9:00 Diary: Omarion

9:30 Diary: Omarion

10:00 Diary: Omarion

10:30 Diary: Omarion

11:00 Diary: Omarion

11:30 Diary: Omarion

12:00 Diary: Omarion

12:30 Diary: Omarion

1:00 Diary: Omarion

1:30 Diary: Omarion

2:00 Diary: Omarion

2:30 Diary: Omarion

3:00 Diary: Omarion

3:30 Diary: Omarion

4:00 Diary: Omarion

4:30 Diary: Omarion

5:00 Diary: Omarion

5:30 Diary: Omarion

6:00 Diary: Omarion

6:30 Diary: Omarion

7:00 Diary: Omarion

7:30 Diary: Omarion

8:00 Diary: Omarion

8:30 Diary: Omarion

9:00 Diary: Omarion

9:30 Diary: Omarion

10:00 Diary: Omarion

10:30 Diary: Omarion



## AM WEEKLY RADIO

### JAPAN — KANTO

#### EAGLE 810

##### Morning (Sun)

7:55 Religious Programming  
9:00 Eagle 810 Sunday Brunch (Smooth Jazz)  
**Afternoon**  
12:00 American Country Countdown  
4:00 A Prairie Home Companion  
**Evening**  
6:00 Focus on the Family  
6:30 Travel Radio  
7:00 Dr. Laura  
8:00 Beale Street Caravan  
9:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)  
10:00 Z-Rock (Alternative)(Mon-Fri)  
2:00 Sports Overnight America  
5:00 NPR's Talk of the Nation (Tue-Fri)  
4:00 NPR On the Media (Mon)  
5:00 NPR Living on Earth (Mon)  
**Morning (Mon-Fri)**  
6:00 Eagle 810 Morning Show (Contemporary Hit)

7:00 Paul Harvey News and Commentary  
7:20 Pacific Report  
7:30 Paul Harvey Rest of the Story  
7:50 Eagle 810 News  
7:50 Zama Commander's Corner (1st Friday)  
Yokota Commander's Corner (2nd & 4th Friday)

Yokota/USCJ Chief (3rd Friday)

10:00 Retf's Cals (7:05, 9:05)

#### Afternoon

12:00 Pacific Report

12:40 Paul Harvey News and Commentary

12:51 Air Force Radio News

2:00 Top 40 Music

3:00 Traffic Jamz (Current Chart Hits)

4:00 Pacific Report

4:07 NFL Sportspage

4:12 Paul Harvey Rest of the Story

#### Evening

6:00 From the Bench Live Sports (Wed)

7:00 NPR's Morning Edition Live

Yokokusa Commander's Corner (1st & 3rd Thursday)

8:00 Rush Limbaugh

9:00 The Touch (Urban) / Mon/Country: Tue/Pure Gold (Oldies); Wed/rock of the 60s (Classic Rock) Thu/The Touch (Urban): Fri

12:00 Z-Rock (Alternative)

2:00 Sports Overnight America

2:00 NPR's Talk of the Nation Live

#### Morning (Sat)

6:00 NPR's All Things Considered Live

9:00 Kim Komando

10:00 Classic Rock

#### Afternoon

12:00 Rick Dees Weekly Top 40

12:00 Z-Rock (Alternative)

#### Evening

6:00 Eagle 810 Saturday Night

7:00 The Touch (Urban)

7:20 Z-Rock (Alternative)

8:00 Sports Overnight America

4:00 Adult Contemporary

#### Morning (Sun)

7:00 NPR: All Things Considered

8:00 Rush Limbaugh  
9:00 Parent's Journal  
10:00 Chris's Talk  
11:00 Sports Overnight America

#### Afternoon

12:00 Adult Rock

4:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)

#### Evening

10:00 The Touch (Urban)

12:00 Z-Rock

3:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)

#### Morning (Mon-Fri)

6:00 Morning Air Strike

6:30 Paul Harvey News

7:10 Horoscope

7:30 Inside Iwaki Radio News

8:30 Rest of the Story

8:35 David Letterman/Leno

9:00 NPR's Call Up

10:00 Bright Adult Contemporary

11:00 Urban Assault

#### Afternoon

1:00 Z-Rock/Golden Oldies (Fri)

2:00 The Afterburner

2:30 Inside Iwaki Radio News

2:34 Rest of the Story

2:35 Pacific Report

3:30 Paul Harvey News

4:00 NFL Sportspage

4:00 Departure Time

#### Evening

7:00 Fresh Air

7:00 The Rock Show (Mon)/Old School (Tue)/The Mosh Pit (Fri)

12:00 Country

12:00 Z-Rock

6:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)

10:00 Soundbarrier

4:07 NFL Sportspage

#### Afternoon

6:00 NPR's All Things Considered

7:00 The Jim Rome Show

8:00 The Touch

12:00 Z-Rock

5:00 Hot Jazz

#### JAPAN — MISAHA

#### THE EDGE - AM 1575

##### Morning (Sun)

12:00 Z-Rock

2:00 Classic Rock

4:00 Hot Act

9:00 Car Talk

9:00 Kim Komando

7:00 Religious

9:00 Classic Rock

10:00 Hot Act

#### Afternoon

12:00 Z-Rock

12:00 Adult Rock

#### Evening

6:00 A Prairie Home

8:00 Hot Act

#### Morning (Mon-Fri)

12:00 Z-Rock

2:00 Classic Rock

4:00 Sports Overnight America

5:00 Rush Limbaugh

6:00 Matt In the Morning

9:00 Hot Act

#### Afternoon

12:00 Classic Rock

3:00 Edge Afternoon Radio

#### Evening

12:00 Adult Rock

6:00 Country

8:00 R&B

7:00 Hot Act

#### Morning (Fri)

12:00 Z-Rock

2:00 Classic Rock

4:00 Sports Overnight America

5:00 Rush Limbaugh

6:00 Matt In the Morning

9:00 Flashback

11:00 Hot Act

12:00 Classic Rock

12:00 Inside the Line

3:00 That Country Show

#### Evening

8:00 Classic Rock

8:00 R&B

10:00 Hot Act

#### Morning (Sat)

12:00 Z-Rock

2:00 Classic Rock

4:00 Hot Act

6:00 Oldies

8:00 Car Talk

9:00 Saturday Retro

12:00 Rick Dees

3:00 Nuestra Musica

5:00 Kim Komando

#### Evening

6:00 Kim Komando

7:00 Z-Rock

9:00 Hot Act

#### JAPAN — SASEBO

##### THUNDER RADIO 1575

##### Morning (Sunday)

12:00 Z-Rock

4:00 Soft Hits

7:00 Religious Programming

10:00 Focus on the Family

10:30 The Environmental Show

11:00 Savvy Traveler

#### Afternoon

12:00 American Country Countdown

4:00 Top 40

2:00 Classic Rock

6:00 Classic Rock

3:00 Z-Rock

#### Morning (Mon-Fri)

12:00 Soft Hits

5:00 Rush Limbaugh

6:00 Morning Drive

9:00 Country

#### Afternoon

12:00 "The Jam" with Nikki V. (Mon, Wed and Fri)

12:00 Urban Music (Tue and Thu)

3:00 "The Rush"

#### Evening

6:00 Classic Rock

9:00 Top 40

#### Morning (Saturday)

12:00 Top 40

4:00 Classic Rock

7:00 All Things Considered

8:30 Best of Our Knowledge

9:00 Oldies

10:00 Car Talk

10:00 Top 40 Show (live)

#### Afternoon

12:00 Rick Dees American Top 40

4:00 Nuestra Musica

5:00 Country

8:00 Urban

#### KOREA

##### THUNDER AM

##### Morning (Sun)

5:00 NPR's Weekly Edition

7:00 Bright Adult Contemporary

10:00 Nuestra Musica

12:00 Oldies Radio

4:00 Sports Overnight America

6:00 NPR Car Talk

7:00 Prairie Home Companion

8:00 NPR's Weekly Edition

11:00 Country

#### Morning (Mon)

12:00 Country

6:00 Country

7:00 Morning Report

7:30 This Week with Sam & Cokie

8:00 Oldies Radio

#### Afternoon

12:30 News & Views

1:00 Noon Report

5:00 Jim Rome Show

6:00 Evening Report

8:00 Sports Byline

7:00 Rush Limbaugh

8:00 NPR's Morning Edition

#### Morning (Tue-Fri)

12:00 Country

10:30 The Environmental Show

5:00 NPR

7:00 Morning Report

7:30 NPR's Morning Edition

8:00 Oldies Radio

#### Afternoon

12:00 Noon Report

12:30 News & Views

1:00 Dr. Laura

2:00 Country

5:00 Jim Rome Show

#### Evening

6:00 Evening Report

8:00 Sports Byline

7:00 Rush Limbaugh

8:00 NPR's Morning Edition

10:00 Country

#### Morning (Sat)

12:00 Country

5:00 NPR's All Things Considered

7:00 Classic Rock

#### Afternoon

12:00 Adult Rock

9:00 Adult Rock

#### Morning (Sat)

12:00 Z-Rock

4:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)

#### Evening

6:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)

10:00 Adult Contemporary (Hot AC)

#### Morning (Sat)

12:00 Adult Rock

6:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)

8:00 Saturday Show (live)

#### Afternoon

1:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)

2:00 Adult Show (live)

6:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)

10:00 Adult Contemporary (Hot AC)

#### Morning (Sat)

12:00 Adult Rock

6:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)

8:00 Saturday Show (live)

11:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)

#### Afternoon

12:00 Rick Dees Weekly Top 40

4:00 Adult Rock

6:00 Adult Contemporary (Hot AC)

12:00 Country  
4:00 Sports Overnight America  
**Evening**  
6:00 Country  
7:00 Rush Limbaugh  
8:00 Oldies  
9:00 National Public Radio

#### OKINAWA

##### SURF 648 AM

##### Morning (Sunday)

12:00 Adult Rock (cont.)

#### Evening

7:00 Sports Overnight America (live)

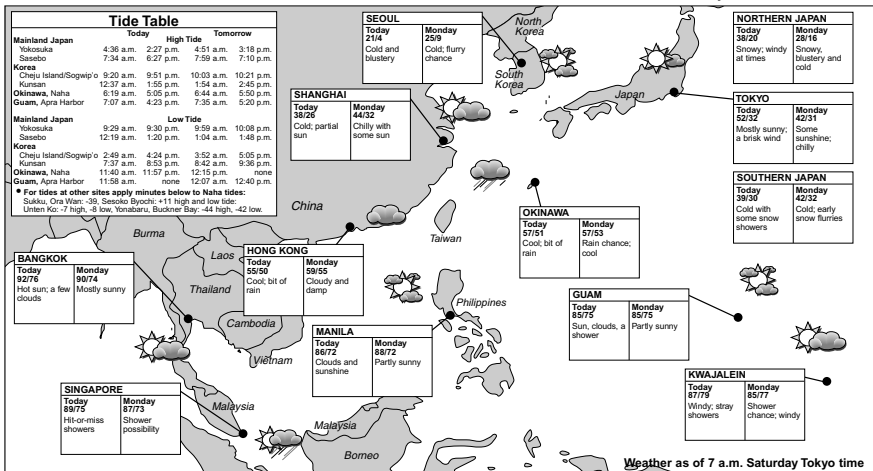
8:00 Adult Rock



## The Pacific Forecast

AccuWeather.com

Forecasts and graphics, provided by AccuWeather.com ©2005



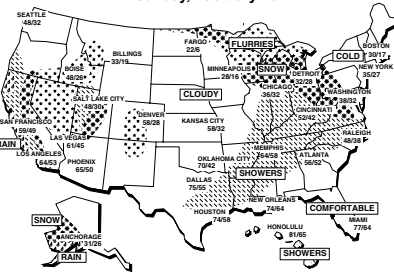
## Extended Forecasts

<b>TOKYO</b> Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 45, low 37. Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 50, low 40.	<b>KADENA</b> Tuesday: Rain, high 64, low 59. Wednesday: Rain, high 67, low 62.	<b>SEATTLE</b> Tuesday: Snow, high 31, low 19. Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 33, low 16.	<b>MANILA</b> Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 88, low 74. Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 90, low 74.	<b>HAGATNA</b> Tuesday: Showers, high 85, low 75. Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high 87, low 77.
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## Friday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	52/41	Los Angeles	64/55
Amarillo	45/40	Little Rock	60/40
Anchorage	32/24	Louisville	44/24
Ashville	48/24	Miami	80/61
Baltimore	34/16	Milwaukee	25/15
Birmingham	57/35	Nashville	57/32
Bismark	35/7	New York	33/18
Boise	45/28	Omaha	41/27
Boston	34/16	Orlando	70/46
Brownsville	76/62	Philadelphia	33/19
Buffalo	16/7	Phoenix	70/55
Burlington	23/2	Pittsburgh	23/11
Charleston, SC	57/31	Portland, OR	56/34
Charlotte	53/28	Portland, ME	31/11
Cleveland	22/16	Salt Lake City	42/34
Columbus, OH	28/16	St. Louis	40/28
Duluth	12/6	San Antonio	56/52
El Paso	61/47	San Diego	65/56
Hartford	32/12	San Juan	82/70
Helena	38/13	Tampa	70/45
Indianapolis	31/20	Tulsa	57/41
Jacksonville	62/34	Washington, DC	38/19
Kansas City	43/33	Wichita	51/40

## Sunday, February 20



## U.S. Extended Forecast

A series of storm systems will cause a wet end to the weekend for much of the nation. Flurries will diminish over Maine as a system departs. Meanwhile, an even larger low pressure center will spread snow from the Dakotas to the Great Lakes Sunday and rain over the rest of the Midwest and Mississippi Valley. Some morning ice will impact eastern Nebraska, Iowa and western Illinois. In the afternoon, snow will develop in western Pennsylvania and rain will move into the Southeast. Another storm system will cause rain and mountain snow showers to plague the Four Corners region. Rain will dampen northern California; spotty showers will occur in Southern California, but rain will arrive at night.

## Sunday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	92/76	Iwakuni	37/25
Beijing	25/10	Kadena AB	57/51
Camp Casey	22/3	Kunsan AB	26/12
Christchurch	72/51	Kwajalein	87/79
Diego Garcia	86/77	Manila	86/72
Hagatna	85/75	Misawa AB	41/18
Hanoi	59/53	Osan	24/6
Hong Kong	55/50	Pertub	50/60
Honolulu	81/65	Pusan	30/18

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Sasebo NB	38/28	Sapporo	38/20
Seoul	21/4	Shanghai	38/26
Singapore	89/75	Sydney	76/62
Taipei	29/14	Tel Aviv	57/47
Tokyo	52/32		

## Sunday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	89/72	Budapest	35/28	Kabul	41/20
Athens	53/48	Buenos Aires	92/74	Kiev	32/20
Auckland	71/60	Cairo	66/44	Kuwait	79/63
Baghdad	75/52	Cancun	81/68	London	41/32
Barbados	87/68	Cape Town	78/58	Madrid	48/34
Barcelona	53/37	Geneva	31/28	Mexico City	75/48
Berlin	30/20	Istanbul	47/37	Montreal	19/14
Bermuda	57/47	Jerusalem	54/42	Mogadishu	93/79
Brussels	37/22	Johannesburg	74/56	Moscow	25/13
				Stockholm	33/23
				Warsaw	30/29



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# Falcons getting chance to soar at home

BY DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

Every year since 1998, the host team has reached center court in the Far East High School Girls Class AA Basketball Tournament. The last three won the title, too.

Coach Charlotte Hicks is hoping Seoul American will be next — after taking her team on the road every year since she began coaching the Falcons in 1987, she at last gets to host the large-schools tournament.

She thinks her team's chances are good, but stopped short of predicting a championship banner to join the three that the Falcons' boys have earned.

"We'll be in the Final Four," said Hicks, whose girls have finished third every year since 1998. "I think we'll come through. I have a good feeling. The kids aren't verbalizing it, but they're playing that way."

She has good reason to feel that way. Through Wednesday's games, the Falcons (16-5) were 14-0 in the league, with the weekend's Korean-American Inter-scholastic Activities Conference tournament left to prepare for Class AA.

It's typical for a Falcons team that has won KIAIC every season since 1993 but has come up short in the Class AA tournament.

## Far East Girls Class AA Basketball Tournament

Dates: Feb. 21-26, 2005.

Host: Seoul American High School.  
Sites: Collier Field House and Seoul American High School, Falcon Gym, South Post, Yongnan Garrison, South Korea.

Participants: Nile C. Kinnick Red Devils, Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan; Kung Kung International Dragons, Hong Kong; China; Kadena Panthers, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa; Kubasaki Dragons, Camp Foster, Okinawa (defending champion, titles in 1978-80, 1985-86, 1990, 1993 and 2002); John F. Kennedy Islanders, Upper Tilton, Guam; Seoul American Falcons, Yongnan Garrison, South Korea; Yokota Panthers, Yokota Air Base, Japan; Robert D. Egan Eagles, Misawa Air Base, Japan; Zama American Trojans, Camp Zama, Japan; Seisen International Phoenix, Tokyo; Christian Academy in Japan Knights, Tokyo; American School in Japan Mustangs, Tokyo; Guam High Panthers, Nimitz Hill, Guam; Seoul American junior varsity.

Returning All-Tournament players: First team, Erin Foote, Kubasaki. Second team, Luailahi Johnson, Nile C. Kinnick. Third team, Janel Daniels, Amy Bakameyer, Seoul American.

Format: 31 days of round-robin play, 14 teams divided into two pools of seven teams each, followed by 21 days of modified single-elimination playoffs.

Schedule: Opening ceremony to be determined. Round-robin games begin at 10:30 a.m. Monday at Falcon gym and 4:30 p.m. at Collier. Skills competitions, three-point, free-throw and team relay to be determined. Playoffs begin at 4 a.m. Thursday at Collier and Falcon. Championship at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at Falcon. Closing ceremony to follow.

But playing in their gym, before their fans, will make a big difference, Hicks said, starting with her coaching mind-set.

"I'll be more of a coach this year and less of a mother, babysitter, chaperone and teacher," she



Guard Amy Bakameyer, left, and forward Janel Daniels, right, hope homecourt advantage will help in the Girls Class AA tournament.

said. "My frame of mind is so different than in years past."

While traveling, Hicks and her players would be gathering travel flyers, taking care of grade eligibility sheets and homework assignments, plotting places to ensure the players would eat right while on the road and meet the nightly 10 p.m. curfew.

"It's so relaxed," Hicks said. "It's so nice to be able to say I'm going to be home. I've already told the kids they'll be going to class to keep their routines. They'll eat right. They'll get enough sleep."

They'll also have the home crowd.



PHOTOS BY DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

"When we're on the road, we're it. It's just us," Hicks said. "Just coming out on the floor, they'll know they're at home and they'll have people cheering for us. And because they're home, they really want to do well."

Since 1986, the girls' host team has reached the final 13 times and won it eight. On the boys side, 16 host teams have made it to center court since 1982, with 10 winning, including Seoul American the last two years.

Falcons' fans will be pulling for a team that, while short on height, has tried to overcome that with speed and hustle. Playing a handful of games against Korean

teams, and also in the Osan Pacificwide tournament in December against military teams, has helped.

The Falcons still will have to fend off many a contender for the championship.

Yokota, with its veteran squad complemented by newcomer Andrevia Thomas, has led Japan most of the year, but Zama American, with its transfer star Tiffani Wright, and Nile C. Kinnick have taken turns beating Yokota and each other all season.

While the past two champions, Kubasaki and Kadena, have lost much of their talent base, they've built around their remaining veterans. Dragons guard Erin Foote and forward Kaileen Mathieu and Panthers forward Liz Cotto and guard Dianne Abel, and appear primed for another run.

But the senior-laden Falcons, including point guard Amy Bakameyer and post players Whitney Smith and Janel Daniels, have had enough of being the "best in Korea" and third-best at Class AA and hope to prove it.

"They're not leaving [Korea] this year being unbeaten and expecting wonderful things," Hicks said. "We're not coming in as green as we have in years past. Once we get to bracket [play], brass tacks, we'll get it."

E-mail Dave Ornauer at: [ornaup@starsandstripes.com](mailto:ornaup@starsandstripes.com)

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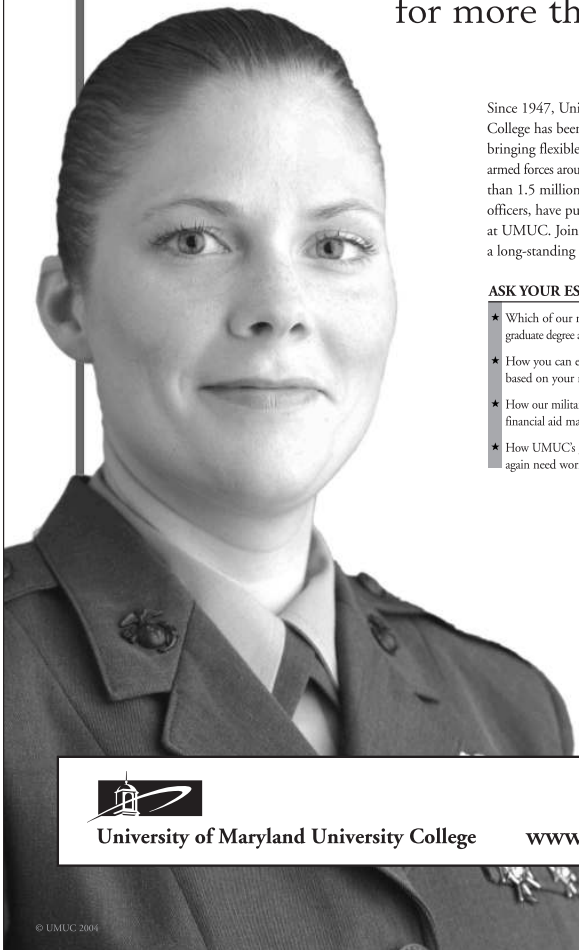












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# Hokies stun No. 7 Duke

By HANK KURZ JR.

The Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Zebian Dowdell and his Virginia Tech teammates talked a lot about not being intimidated by Duke and forgetting their lopsided loss on the Blue Devils' home court just 18 days earlier.

The Hokies took the message to heart, and when Dowdell made a three-pointer with 14.6 seconds to play, Virginia Tech stunned No. 7 Duke 67-65 Thursday night.

"Now we belong," Dowdell said of the Hokies, in their first season in the Atlantic Coast Conference. "I mean, they have to take us seriously now."

"Whether they like it or not, we're here."

The victory was one of the biggest in Hokies history, and came against the most unlikely opponent — the one with the reputation for working hard.

Behind 14 points and 18 rebounds from Coleman Collins, Virginia Tech outbounded Duke 49-32. The Hokies got J.J. Redick in foul trouble for the first time this season and they blocked 12 shots, making All-American candidates Redick and Shelden Williams work extra hard for shots.

"It's all about hustle and effort and attitude," Redick said. "You've got to go make it happen, and Virginia Tech made it happen tonight."

The Hokies (13-10, 6-6) ended a three-game losing streak and pulled into a three-way tie for fourth in the league with Maryland and Miami. The Blue Devils (18-4, 8-4), who beat Virginia Tech 100-65 less than three weeks ago, lost their second in a row.

"It's almost beyond words," second-year Hokies coach Seth



Duke guard Sean Dockery (15) struggles with Virginia Tech forward Coleman Collins (33) for possession of the ball on Thursday.

Greenberg said, "and anyone who knows me, to be beyond words is pretty hard for me."

The finish was frantic, with Redick hitting a three-pointer with 22.9 seconds left to give the Blue Devils a 65-64 lead, and Dowdell coming back with a jumper from the right wing that caused the sellout crowd to erupt.

After timeouts by each team, Duke inbounded the ball with 4.9 seconds left and Redick fed Daniel Ewing for a three-point shot from right of the key that missed, bringing hundreds of fans rushing onto the court.

"Duke is Duke," Greenberg said, struggling to explain his emotions. "In Final Fours. Everything good you can think about college basketball, Duke epitomizes. To me, they're the Yankees, and I'm a Yankee fan."

Carlos Dixon led the Hokies with 18 points and more than held his own against Redick, who

scored 19 and but missed nine of 16 shots. Jason Gordon added 17 points and had four blocks, and Dowdell scored 11.

"We just showed them what we're all about," Dixon said. "We knew we could play with them the first 5 minutes of the game. We had to just keep fighting and keep fighting and we did."

Collins, just 18, also blocked five shots.

Shelden Williams had 16 points and Ewing had 13 for Duke.

Redick brought the Blue Devils back to 60-60 on a drive with 3:05 left. After Jeff King, a football tight end who joined the team after the season, made a baby hook to get the Hokies back in front, Williams scored inside to regain, setting up the thrilling finish.

Collins, 10-for-10 from the line in a game earlier this year, missed two with 1:11 left, but Redick missed a 17-footer at the other end.

forward James Augustine said. "When one player's not playing well, everybody else steps it up and helps out the team."

Just check out their stats. None of the Illini ranks in the top 50 in the country in scoring, but all five starters average in double figures. Five players have been high scorer in a game and five have been the top rebounder.

Most telling, they rank third in the country with 19.2 assists per game while committing only 10.8 turnovers.

"We like being up there in the top assists in the nation, and top in assist-to-turnover ratio," Williams said. "That's a big key to our success, how unselfish we are. No one guy wants to be a superstar."

No one's a better example of that than Williams. He might be Illinois' best pure player, the preseason pick as Big Ten player of the year, candidate for the Wooden Award and someone who's capable of going off for 30 points on any night. Yet he's fourth on the team in scoring, his average is down slightly from last year and he's the only starter who has yet to win Big Ten player of the week honors. In the Feb. 6 game against Indiana, he scored one point, a free throw with 2:15 remaining.

He is, however, ranked 12th in the coun-

# Cardinals' late rally holds off Marquette

The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — When the Louisville Cardinals found themselves down by 11 points to Marquette with 5:38 left, they didn't think of turning to their prolific offense to bail them out of another upset.

## Top 25 roundup

"We had to win this game with defense, not offense," Cardinals coach Rick Pitino said after Francisco Garcia's three-pointer with 2.6 seconds left capped a 14-0 run that gave Louisville (22-4, 10-2 Conference USA) a 64-61 victory Thursday night.

The Cardinals clamped down on the Golden Eagles, who turned the ball over once and missed three free throws, three three-pointers, a jumper and two layups on their final nine possessions.

"We just kept digging in on defense," said Garcia, who scored 16 of his 18 points in the second half, helping the 12th-ranked Cardinals avoid their second loss in three games.

Travis Dierzer's three-pointer at the buzzer bounced off the rim.

"You couldn't ask for a better shot. I just missed it, missed it bad. It was the story of my night," said Dierzer, who also clanked two layups off the rim in the final minutes, finishing 2-for-16 from the floor in what the senior called his worst college performance.

"They played good defense and we missed some layups. I missed some layups. I'm supposedly the best player on the team. I should be able to make layups."

The Golden Eagles tried to

run the shot clock down in the final 5 minutes, and they ended up with hurried shots instead of good looks.

"It's feast or famine some nights when you do that," Pitino said.

**No. 10 Arizona 92, Oregon 67:** Salim Stoudamire shook off a slow start to score 22 points and the red Wildcats made 21 of 30 shots in the second half.

Channing Frye scored 19 points and "blocked" a career-high seven shots in Arizona's fifth consecutive victory. Hassan Adams scored 17, 12 in the second half, and Chris Rodgers had 11 points and a career-best nine assists for the Pac-10-leading Wildcats.

Arizona (22-4, 12-2 Pac-10) was 20-for-26 in the second half before coach Luke Olson emptied his bench with three minutes to play.

**No. 13 Gonzaga 90, San Diego 73:** At Spokane, Wash.,

Derek Bovio scored 29 points as Gonzaga retained first place in the West Coast Conference.

J.P. Batista added 19 points for Gonzaga (20-4, 10-2 WCC), which has won seven games in a row and reached 20 victories for the eighth season in a row.

Gonzaga is 35-0 of home when ranked and has a 23-game winning streak at home, third-longest in the nation.

**No. 25 Villanova 66, Seton Hall 52:** Easter Rutherford, N.J.,

Curtis Sumpter scored 25 points, hitting the key baskets and leading Villanova to a 10-0 record in the Big East to propel the Wildcats (16-6, 6-5 Big East) to their fourth victory in five games.

Randy Foye and Mike Nardi each had 10 points for Villanova. Andre Sweet had 13 points for Seton Hall (11-11, 3-8).

# One: Illinois finds right balance while remaining undefeated

ONE, FROM BACK PAGE

"We don't have 'THE star,'" coach Bruce Weber said. "We have balance, we have unselfishness, and that makes us more of a team."

The Illini certainly don't lack for personality. There's a first-class talker behind Deron Williams' stoic gameface, and his Weber imitation is so perfect it even fools teammates sometimes.

"It's so funny," Luther Head said, chuckling. "He's got it down pat, from the smile to the expressions to crying."

Pace is a Pentecostal minister — his teammates call him "The Rev" — who still finds time during the season to speak to church groups. Brown is a former quarterback whose dazzling quickness earned him the nickname "The One-Man Fast Break," and teammates say he's often a ringleader for their social outings.

"We've got a lot of characters on this team," Williams said.

The Illini figured out a while ago that their team is far better than any one of their parts, or off on the court.

"With other teams, you can focus on one guy. With us, you can't focus on just one guy because other people will beat you,"

ty with 6.9 assists a game. With 178 assists already, he's on pace to break the school's season record. And the Indiana guy? He had 11 assists, one shy of his season and career high.

"I'm having a great season. My team's 26-0 and I'm the point guard on my team," Williams said, a touch of defiance creeping into his voice. "I'm never not worried about myself. I'm worried about wins. If we get wins, that's all I'm concerned with."

Coaches in every sport at every level beg, plead and prod their players for that only best player on the team. For the Illini, though, it comes naturally.

The team has been unusually close since the juniors arrived on campus. Several already knew each other from growing up in the Chicago area, and the rest were quickly welcomed into the fold.

They'd see movies together. Go bowling. Play cards or Monopoly at someone's apartment.

Bill Self's sudden departure for Kansas in April 2003 brought them even closer. The Illini love Weber now, but indicating to a new coach is always tough, and the players had to lean on each other.

They're even tight with each other's families. When Augustine came out of the lock-

er room last weekend, Head's aunt greeted him with a hug. Head made sure to say hello to Pace's mom, complimenting her on her hair.

"I've been on teams that had groups that were close, but as far as mixing and matching, I've never been on a team that's been as close all the time," said senior Jack Ingram, who transferred from Tulsa before the 2002-03 season. "I could go hang out with any of the guys and feel just as comfortable as if I was with my roommate."

That closeness also has made it easier to deal with the pressure and publicity that comes with being No. 1. If someone is slacking off or not doing something right, his teammates know it can hit on it. There's so much teasing and trash talking it's impossible for anyone to get a big head.

Not even Weber is immune. When his cell phone started ringing after a national TV appearance recently, he knew without looking it was his players calling to rally him.

"We just get along," Williams said. "We are a family. That's how we feel."

And the Illini know they are — regardless of their record or rank.

"It's a very, very unique team," senior center Nick Smith said. "It's not something you see all the time."



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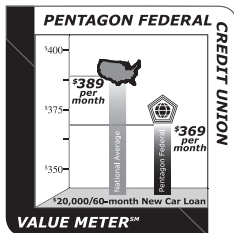
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# With franchise tag, Brees stays in S.D.

The Associated Press

**SAN DIEGO** — For a guy who wasn't expected to do much last season, Drew Brees sure got a nice raise.

The San Diego Chargers used their franchise tag Thursday on Brees and will offer him a one-year contract of just more than \$8 million. The quarterback made \$1.56 million in base pay last season, and led the Chargers (12-4) to the AFC West title.

The Chargers wanted to put the tag on the NFL's Comeback Player of the Year to keep him from leaving as an unrestricted free agent.

"Franchising him is a no-brainer because if we didn't, we wouldn't get any compensation and he wouldn't be here, he'd be going to the airport," General Manager A.J. Smith said. "We want him to be our quarterback. I mean, a little bit over \$8 million for one year, for a quarterback, I think, tells you clearly what we think of his abilities."

Brees rebounded from a nightmarish 2003 season to lead the Chargers to their first playoff berth in nine seasons. He also was voted to the Pro Bowl.

Brees has said he wants a long-term deal from the Chargers, but Smith said the team currently is not interested in offering one.

Brees, on vacation in Australia with his wife, said in a statement issued by the team that he was happy to remain in San Diego.

"We've built a solid foundation and I feel we can really make a run. I'm excited about being a part of that," Brees said.

His salary for 2005 is the average of the top five salaried quarterbacks from last season.

Brees was tagged as a non-exclusive franchise player, meaning he can negotiate with other teams. Should Brees receive an offer from another team, the Chargers can either match it or receive two first-round draft choices from that club as compensation.

Brees' agent, Tom Condon, plans to check teams' interest in the quarterback. But he said that if Brees were to leave San Diego this year, it'd likely be via a trade.

## Jets franchise DE Abraham

**HEMPSTEAD, N.Y.** — Defensive end John Abraham was designated the New York Jets' franchise player on Friday with a one-year deal worth \$6.7 million.

Abraham was second on the Jets with 9½ sacks last season despite missing the team's final four



**Drew Brees, who made \$1.56 million last season and will earn just over \$8 million next season, was tagged as a non-exclusive franchise player, meaning he can negotiate with other teams.**

games with a knee injury. He was voted to the Pro Bowl although the injury kept him out of the game.

## Grantham hired as Browns defensive coordinator

**CLEVELAND** — Todd Grantham, who spent the past three seasons coaching Houston's defensive linemen, was hired as defensive coordinator of the Cleveland Browns on Thursday.

The Texans played a 3-4 defense, the kind Crennel used with New England and wants to implement with the Browns.

Grantham wasn't Crennel's first choice. The Browns tried to lure Patriots defensive backs coach Eric Mangini to Cleveland, but Mangini stayed with New England, replacing Crennel as defensive coordinator.

# Bruschi OK after stroke

## Patriots LB released from hospital

By JAY LINDSAY

The Associated Press

**BOSTON** — New England Patriots linebacker Teddy Bruschi was released from the hospital Friday after spending two days recovering from a mild stroke that caused numbness, blurred vision and severe headaches.

Wearing a gray sweat suit, Bruschi smiled and waved to reporters and fans as he walked with his wife, Heidi, to a waiting sports utility vehicle outside Massachusetts General Hospital. He did not comment.

Bruschi was reportedly walking and talking normally a day after the stroke. Doctors said positive reports so soon after the stroke were good indicators that he could continue his football career, but his prognosis remains uncertain.

Bruschi, a nine-year NFL veteran, is one of the team's most popular players and a key member of the defense that helped New England win three of the past four Super Bowls.

He was selected as the AFC's Defensive Player of the Week three times last season, including after a first-round playoff victory over the Indianapolis Colts. He ranked second on the team with 128 tackles and tied for second with three interceptions. On Sunday, Bruschi played in his first Pro Bowl in Hawaii.

Heidi Bruschi called 911 on Wednesday, saying her husband was experiencing "blurred vision, numbness on the right side of his body." The Patriots later confirmed that he had suffered a mild stroke.

Team spokesman Stacey James visited Bruschi at the hospital Friday to deliver hundreds of printed e-mails from well-wishers around the country.

"The outpouring of support has been overwhelming and the Bruschi family is very appreciative," James said.

An estimated 700,000 people per year in the United States suffer strokes, the vast majority resulting from clots that block the brain's arteries.

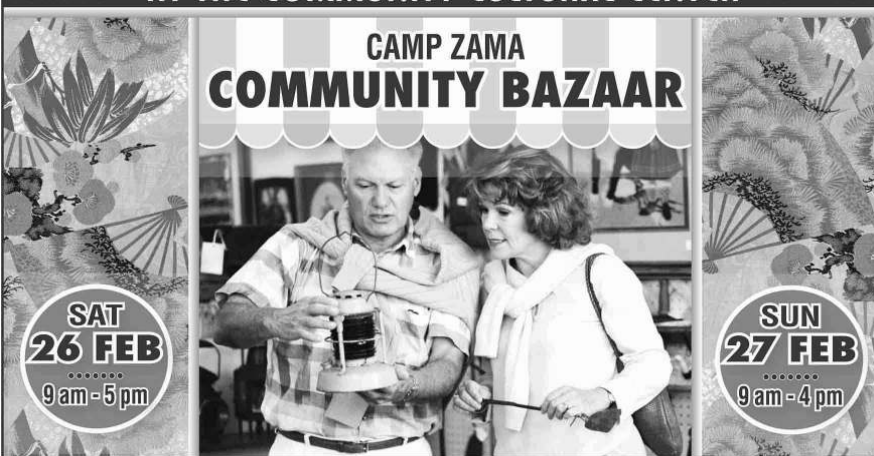
Brian Mullen of the NHL's New York Islanders attempted a comeback two years after suffering a mild stroke and undergoing surgery to correct the heart problem that caused it in 1993. He had a seizure while training for his comeback and retired when no team would take a chance on him.

Houston Astros pitcher J.R. Richard, one of the most dominant right-handers of the late 1970s, had his career cut short when he suffered a blockage-caused stroke in 1980 at age 30. His comeback attempt was also unsuccessful.

Unlike heart attacks, strokes usually cause no pain, so the warning signs often are missed by victims and people around them.

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# Alou expects same ol' Bonds

## Spring training opens with Red Sox-Yankees sniping

BY RONALD BLUM  
The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — San Francisco Giants manager Felipe Alou understands there will be even more attention on his team this spring because of the steroid suspicion surrounding Barry Bonds.

"If you're good, you're good — whether it is the era of the steroids, or the cigars, or the hot dog, or the beer, or the amphetamine, or the red juice, or the whiskey," Alou said as his team reported Thursday in Scottsdale, Ariz. "He's been through the death of Bobby, his dad, along with the steroid stuff. I expect for him to just show up and swing the bat and hit."

In Mesa, Ariz., Chicago Cubs manager Dusty Baker said he reached out to Sammy Sosa after the outfielder was traded to Baltimore, seeking to understand why their relationship came apart at the end of last season.

"I got hold of him and we had a short conversation. I wished him well. I did ask him, I said, 'Hey, man, I'm still bewildered about what happened and why,' and he didn't really have an answer," Baker said Thursday before Chicago's first workout of the spring.

"He said, 'It's in the past, good



luck and God bless you.' And that was the extent of the conversation."

Curt Schilling arrived at the Boston Red Sox camp in Fort Myers, Fla., on Thursday, saying he hopes to recover from ankle surgery in time to pitch Boston's April 3 opener at New York's Yankee Stadium, possibly against former Arizona teammate Randy Johnson.

After Schilling and Pedro Martinez helped lead Boston to its first title in 86 years, Martinez left to sign with the New York Mets. Schilling said he enjoyed pitching with Pedro a lot more than Martinez liked pitching alongside him.

"I think that was pretty obvious at the end, not while it was happening. But I guess when you look at what he said afterwards, it was obvious that it wasn't as fun of a thing for him as it was for me," Schilling said. "When the playoffs came and he made the comment about somebody having

to have a lot of guts to come up and tell him he wasn't going to pitch Game 1, that kind of told me where we were at."

New Boston teammate David Wells, who helped New York win two AL pennants and one World Series, got right into the swing of the Red Sox-Yankees sniping, saying Alex Rodriguez "has to earn it."

"I remember reading the press conference or something when he went there," Wells said of A-Rod. "He said, 'When we.' He said a 'we' in his comment about like he's won like three or four rings with them and he hadn't, and that kind of disturbed me."

"He shouldn't put himself in that category," Wells added. "You've got to earn it. It's like he's been there the whole time. But you can't take away what A-Rod has done for the game. He's a great player, and he will continue to be a great player."

At the Yankees' camp, Randy Johnson playfully got into it, too. The Big Unit said he didn't think that merely by signing with the Yankees he'd join A-Rod as a target of the Red Sox and their fans.

"I haven't done anything to them," he said.

Not yet, but his job is to lead the



Washington Nationals pitcher Joe Horgan fields a ground ball during a drill on the first day of spring training for the former Montreal Expos.

Yankees to their first title since 2000 and deny the Red Sox a second straight World Series title.

"So they'll be mad at me if I pitch well against them? Bring it on then," he said, laughing.

In Viera, Fla., the new Washington Nationals held their first workout for pitchers and catchers following the team's move from Montreal. Players more or less

used to performing in a vacuum are having every throw filmed by seven television cameras.

"It was a little strange during stretch seeing everybody out there," reliever Joey Eischen said. "Being an Expo, being here a long time, I've never seen that. I've been in a lot of other camps. I've been with 11 other pro teams. It would equate a little bit with the Yankees."

## Thomas to miss White Sox reporting deadline Monday

The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Chicago White Sox slugger Frank Thomas hasn't recovered from an ankle operation and will miss Monday's reporting deadline.

Head trainer Herm Schreiner said Friday that the team has "no real timetable" for Thomas' return.

White Sox General Manager Ken Williams had said that the two-time American League MVP was expected to report with the rest of the position players. Pitchers, catchers and a handful of other players reported Wednesday.

"I am disappointed for him," manager Ozzie Guillen said. "We want to have him here, but I knew this was going to happen. ... That is why I prepared myself and my team to move on without Frank. When Frank is here, we will take care of him."

Thomas had a bone graft and two screws inserted on Oct. 6 to repair a partial stress fracture of his left ankle, injured while fielding a grounder June 17.

A decision on Thomas' return will be made after he meets with doctors the first week of March.

### Garciparra gets raise

MESA, Ariz. — The first pitch of spring training hasn't even been thrown, and Nomar Garciaparra already got a raise from the Chicago Cubs. Garciaparra will have a base salary of \$8.25 mil-

lion this year, up from the \$8 million deal he agreed to in December. As part of the reworked

contract, he will be able to earn \$2.75 million in performance bonuses instead of \$3 million.

He was traded to Chicago from Boston last July 31. The two-time AL batting champion hit a combined .308 with nine homers and 41 RBIs last season.

### Nationals get broadcaster

WASHINGTON — Bonneville International Corp., which operates four stations in the Washington, D.C., market, pulled out a last-minute victory Thursday in the battle for broadcast rights to Washington Nationals games.

Financial terms of the one-year deal were not disclosed.

Bonneville prevailed over Infinity Broadcasting, which carries Washington Redskins games, and Clear Channel, which broadcasts Washington Wizards games.

### Mendoza rejoins Yankees

TAMPA, Fla. — Ramiro Mendoza returned to the New York Yankees on Thursday, agreeing to a minor league contract.

Mendoza, not expected to pitch until May following shoulder surgery, would get an \$850,000, one-year contract and have the chance to make \$95,000 in performance bonuses starting at 25 appearances.

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# Woods' 67 leaves him two back in Nissan

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Tiger Woods tossed his putter some 40 feet toward his bag after going from left fringe to the right fringe to make a making bogey. He took an angry swing after missing a short birdie putt. And he ended his round watching two putts burn the edge of the cup.

He still managed a 4-under-67, leaving him two shots behind Brian Davis of England after the first round of the Nissan Open.

Despite his career struggles at Riviera, Woods had a hard time finding the bright spot on what turned out to be a rainy day.

"I putted like a fool today," Woods said. "It was an absolutely horrific day on the greens. But I'm hitting it great. If I would have just putted normal today, I probably could have shot an 8-under with not too much effort."

Davis made it around without too much effort.

The 29-year-old Englishman began with a 4-iron into 4 feet for eagle on the par-5 first, finished with eight pars and a stretch for a 65 to take a one-shot lead over Luke Donald, Darren Clarke and Brett Quigley.

"I've played a lot of links golf, and if you drop a shot, you start fighting it," Davis said.

He mentioned links golf on a couple of occasions. The wind was in his face along a stretch of holes on the front, then turned and played into his face on some of the closing holes — just like it does on some links courses in Britain when the tide changes.

The Nissan Open had a British feel in other areas — particularly the leader board.

Donald, another young Englishman, made three straight birdies on his back nine — twice with



John Daly has reason to smile after ending his third Thursday by holing out from 134 yards for an eagle on the 458-yard, par-4 ninth hole. Daly shot 2-under 69.

30-foot putt — and was tied for the lead until making bogey on No. 9 from a divot in the fairway.

Clarke is from Northern Ireland, and he got off to another strong start with one of several highlights in the first round at Riviera. On the par-3 sixth, famous for a bunker situated in the middle of the green, Clarke's 7-iron landed on the skirt of the fringe surrounding the bunker, then spun back into the cup for an ace.

Quigley had one of seven birdies on the fabled 18th hole, from nearly 50 feet just up the green, to join the group chasing Davis on what figures to be a wet weekend. Adam Scott, Jose Coorens, Kevin Sutherland and two-time defending champion Mike Weir joined Woods at 67. The group at 68 included Jose Maria Olazabal and Steve Elkington, who won the 1995 PGA Championship at Riviera in a playoff.

The Nissan Open has given Woods fits like no other PGA Tour event. It's the only one he has played at least four times without winning.

## Thongchai leads in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Defending champion Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand birdied his last three holes and shot 6-under 66 Friday to lead the \$1.21 million Carlsberg Malaysian Open after two rounds.

The Asian Tour's top-ranked player is 14-under 130, two strokes ahead of Denmark's Thomas Bjorn, who shot 64 on Friday. Ireland's Padraig Harrington, the world eighth-ranked player, trails Jaidee by seven shots.

# NHL's swirl that NHL talks might reopen to save season

BY HELENE ELLIOTT  
AND CHRIS FOSTER  
Los Angeles Times

NEW YORK — Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux performed magnificent feats on the ice. Now, they're trying to do something more improbable: resurrect the NHL season, which was canceled Wednesday by Commissioner Gary Bettman.

Well-placed sources said Thursday that Gretzky, managing partner of the Phoenix Coyotes, and Lemieux, player-owner of the Pittsburgh Penguins, spoke to Bettman in an effort to explore whether the season can be salvaged. Sources said Trevor Linden, president of the NHL Players' Association, and Mike Gartner, the union's director of business relations, met with Bettman in New York on Thursday while players expressed concern about the failed negotiations to the union's Toronto office.

The activity, several sources said, might result in players pressuring union chief Bob Goodenow to propose a deal that would include a salary cap set from \$45 million to \$46 million, and a prohibitive luxury tax. The union's last offer, made on Tuesday, was for a \$42.5 million cap that wasn't linked to revenue.

Bettman and other NHL executives were contacted Thursday by a few owners who expressed anxiety about the economic damage a cancellation might cause. Bettman was said to be out of his New York office most of the day and unavailable for comment.

But Daily the NHL's chief legal officer, said Thursday he and Bettman had spoken to many owners and players in the days preceding the cancellation but that he had not been contacted by the union about reviving the season.

"I'd be happy to take that call and happy to have that problem," he said, "but so far, we don't."

Sources said the call might have been Friday. Gretzky told a Tor-

**"The question now is whether the [union] is going to give in to the pressure. The pressure is significant, coming from all quarters, that the [union] and the executive committee should put in a last-ditch offer."**

## Anonymous source

onto radio station he had not been involved in "formal conversations" but said he had discussed the league's predicament with Lemieux. He also said he had had "extensive talks" with Shane Doan, the Coyotes' union representative and one of about a half-dozen players who teamed with some prominent agents, owners and general managers to kick-start the flagging negotiations last week.

A source said Gretzky had broached the idea of a salary cap compromise. Bettman did not reject it but said the union would have to make such an offer.

"There is a slight chance that this could work," said a source familiar with the back-channel efforts. "But it is a chance."

Said another source: "It's going to be fairly dynamic and interesting, what may occur. It probably should have happened a long time ago."

Bettman on Wednesday said the NHL would have lost money for two years if the union had accepted the league's proposed

\$42.5 million cap, but he would have taken short-term losses to put players back on the ice and generate revenue after a five-month lockout. For the NHL, a cap of about \$45 million would have to be accompanied by other restrictions designed to discourage lavish spending.

"I would love nothing more than to strike while the iron's hot so to speak, and take advantage of whatever little momentum we were able to gain in the last week and try to get a deal done in short order, so that we can work with the P.A. to prepare to relaunch the NHL as strong as we possibly can be come next September and October," Daly said.

Ted Saskin, senior director of the NHLPA, said players had not pushed the union to make a season-saving deal.

"There are no back-channel talks," Saskin said by phone. "What we're hearing are rumors about various owners and general managers who are looking for some kind of continuation of the negotiations because they are not satisfied with the way Gary ended the negotiations..."

"Since that time, Gary said they would be willing to look at a higher number. We wish he would have said that in the negotiating process instead of taking the position he did and shutting down the negotiations." If the union makes a proposal — and if the league accepts it — a deal must come together quickly.

An agreement would have to be written, examined by lawyers and voted upon by the union before the lockout could be lifted. In addition, more than 300 players would have to return from Europe, about 180 free agents would have to be signed, and a brief training camp would have to be squeezed in before the season could start.

"The question now is whether the P.A. is going to give in to the pressure," said a source. "The pressure is significant, coming from all quarters, that the P.A. and the executive committee should put in a last-ditch offer."

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Jimmie Johnson (48) slides in front of Kevin Harvick (29) and Mark Martin (6) as they exit the second turn at Daytona International Speedway during the second of two Gatorade Duel 150 races on Thursday. Harvick, who once was suspended for rough driving, triggered the wreck by bumping Johnson.

## Familiar sights at Daytona

DEI cars near front for 500; Harvick in trouble again

By PAUL NEWBERRY

The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Michael Waltrip and Dale Earnhardt Jr. are running up front at Daytona. Kevin Harvick is stirring up trouble.

Sound familiar? Yep, the new NASCAR season has many of the same of themes — and we're still a couple of days away from the Daytona 500.

Start with Waltrip and Earnhardt, who have dominated Daytona for Dale Earnhardt Inc. They were terrible in qualifying (Waltrip was 33rd, Earnhardt 39th) and lackluster in practice. But once DEI got into racing mode, it was business as usual.

Waltrip, a two-time Daytona 500 winner, edged his teammate, who won the race last year, in the first of two 150-mile qualifying races Thursday.

"I swear on the bible that we haven't been sandbagging," Earnhardt said, failing to convince all those drivers who watched DEI's 1-2 finish.

Tony Stewart won the second 150-mile, but only after he dodged a crash that took out many of the top contenders. Not surprisingly, Harvick was right in the middle of things.

The volatile driver, who served a one-race suspension for his antics in 2002, bumped race leader Jimmie Johnson from behind coming through the second turn.

The resulting melee knocked out Johnson, left Harvick's car in a heap and also took out Mark Martin, Joe Nemechek and Rusty Wallace.

Afterward, Nemechek threw a water bottle at Harvick as he emerged from the infield care center. Johnson called on Harvick to be fired by his team or at least fined by NASCAR.

"He just drives stupid," Nemechek said. "He'll get it back. It was totally uncontrolled of what happened out there."

NASCAR officials moved quickly to diffuse the situation. They summoned Harvick and Johnson,

along with their owners and crew chiefs, to an infield summit meeting. Harvick admitted he was at fault and shook hands with Johnson. The two drivers agreed to meet Thursday night at a secret location — with no one else around — to smooth out a feud that dates to last season.

"We told them they could either work it out among themselves," NASCAR spokesman Jim Hunter said, "or we'd work it out for them."

The wreck Thursday will go down as a "racing incident," Hunter said. But any more problems between the drivers will lead to stiff fines — maybe even suspensions.

No such problems for Waltrip and Earnhardt, who have combined to win three of the last four Daytona 500s. Waltrip passed Junior on the final straightaway and held off the No. 8 car by 0.30 seconds, about half a car length.

"We certainly caught a lot of flak over the last week about the way our cars qualified," Waltrip said. "This silenced it."

## Auto racing scoreboard

### Daytona 500 lineup

NASCAR Nextel Cup  
Sunday  
At Daytona International Speedway  
Daytona Beach, Fla.  
Lap length: 2.5 miles  
(Car number in parentheses)

1. (88) Dale Jarrett, Ford, 188.113 mph, 150-2.
2. (48) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 188.170 mph, 150-1.
3. (15) Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet, 1st 150-1.
4. (50) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 1st 150-2.
5. (6) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 2nd 150-1.
6. (11) Jeff Burton, Chevrolet, 2nd 150-1.
7. (3) Mike Skinner, Dodge, 2nd 150-1.
8. (27) Kevin Lesage, Dodge, 3rd 150-1.
9. (12) Ryan Newman, Dodge, 4th 150-1.
10. (1) Martin Truex Jr., Chevrolet, 4th 150-2.
11. (21) Ricky Rudd, Ford, 5th 150-1.
12. (10) Scott Riggs, Chevrolet, 5th 150-2.
13. (97) Kurt Busch, Ford, 6th 150-1.
14. (17) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 6th 150-2.
15. (24) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 7th 150-1.
16. (22) Scott Wimmer, Dodge, 8th 150-1.
17. (42) Jamie McMurray, Dodge, 8th 150-2.
18. (40) Sterling Marlin, Dodge, 8th 150-1.
19. (5) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 9th 150-2.
20. (20) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 12th 150-1.
21. (60) Kenny Wallace, Chevrolet, 10th 150-1.
22. (32) Bobby Hamilton Jr., Chevrolet, 10th 150-2.
23. (16) Greg Biffle, Ford, 13th 150-1.
24. (19) Jeremy Mayfield, Dodge, 15th 150-2.
25. (77) Travis Kvapil, Dodge, 14th 150-1.
26. (43) Jeff Green, Dodge, 16th 150-2.
27. (99) Carl Edwards, Ford, 15th 150-1.
28. (25) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, 19th 150-1.
29. (41) Casey Mears, Dodge, 17th 150-1.
30. (29) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 21st 150-2.
31. (49) Ken Schrader, Dodge, 19th 150-1.
32. (6) Mark Martin, Ford, 22nd 150-2.
33. (6) Kyle Petty, Dodge, 20th 150-1.
34. (01) Joe Nemechek, Chevrolet, 23rd 150-2.
35. (2) Mike Bliss, Chevrolet, 22nd 150-1.
36. (20) Rusty Wallace, Dodge, 24th 150-2.
37. (30) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 24th 150-1.
38. (97) Dave Blaney, Chevrolet, 25th 150-2.
39. (18) Elliott Sauter, Ford, 26th 150-1.
40. (13) Jason Leffler, Chevrolet, 187.715 mph.
41. (36) Boris Said, Chevrolet, 187.122 mph.
42. (14) John Andretti, Ford, 186.324 mph.
43. (4) Mike Wallace, Chevrolet, 185.806 mph.

### Failed to qualify

44. (33) Kerry Earnhardt, Chevrolet, 183.012 mph.
45. (7) Robby Gordon, Chevrolet, 184.911 mph.
46. (99) Johnny Sauter, Dodge, 184.528 mph.
47. (27) Kirk Sheldermire, Ford, 184.665 mph.
48. (66) Hermie Sadler, Ford, 184.211 mph.
49. (89) Morgan Shepherd, Dodge, 182.769 mph.
50. (73) Eric McClure, Chevrolet, 183.983 mph.
51. (13) Greg Gagne, Dodge, 183.024 mph.
52. (30) Stanton Barrett, Chevrolet, 183.098 mph.
53. (55) Derrick Coe, Chevrolet, 182.275 mph.
54. (34) Randy LaJoie, Chevrolet, 181.159 mph.
55. (24) Ryan Guseman, Ford, 178.409 mph.
56. (80) Andy Belmont, Ford, 174.683 mph.

Note: The top two positions in the Daytona lineup were determined at last week's qualifying. Positions 3-12 were determined by Thursday's 2nd 150-mile races. Michael Waltrip won the first race, and Tony Stewart won the second race, etc. Positions 13-19 were determined by the 150-mile cars from last week's time trials that did not qualify through Thursday's races.

### Gatorade Duels

NASCAR Nextel Cup  
Thursday  
At Daytona International Speedway  
Daytona Beach, Fla.  
Lap length: 2.5 miles  
(Start position in parentheses)

1. (16) Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet, 60, 553.195.
2. (21) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 60, 533.188.
3. (8) Mike Skinner, Dodge, 60, 533.188.
4. (10) Ryan Newman, Dodge, 60, 528.188.
5. (4) Kurt Busch, Ford, 60, 527.188.
6. (2) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 60, 527.688.
7. (12) Jamie McMurray, Dodge, 60, 521.688.
8. (11) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 60, 521.663.
9. (20) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 60, 521.663.
10. (17) Kerry Earnhardt, Chevrolet, 60, 521.613.
11. (23) Jason Leffler, Chevrolet, 60, 521.588.
12. (9) Greg Biffle, Ford, 60, 521.563.
13. (24) Travis Kvapil, Dodge, 60, 521.442 mph.
14. (27) Mike Bliss, Chevrolet, 60, 521.368.
15. (16) Kyle Wallace, Chevrolet, 60, 521.488.
16. (19) Casey Mears, Dodge, 60, 521.463.
17. (26) Stanton Barrett, Chevrolet, 60, 521.423.
18. (20) Ken Schrader, Dodge, 60, 521.388.
19. (7) Kyle Petty, Dodge, 60, 521.363.
20. (24) Kevin Lesage, Dodge, 60, 521.363.
21. (15) Mike Bliss, Chevrolet, 60, 521.368.
22. (23) Johnny Sauter, Dodge, 54 engine.
23. (25) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, 60, 521.368.
24. (10) Casey Mears, Dodge, 54 engine.
25. (26) Stanton Barrett, Chevrolet, 60, 521.368.
26. (20) Ken Schrader, Dodge, 60, 521.388.
27. (7) Kyle Petty, Dodge, 60, 521.363.
28. (24) Kevin Lesage, Dodge, 60, 521.363.
29. (15) Mike Bliss, Chevrolet, 60, 521.368.
30. (23) Johnny Sauter, Dodge, 54 engine.
31. (25) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, 60, 521.368.
32. (26) Stanton Barrett, Chevrolet, 60, 521.368.
33. (20) Ken Schrader, Dodge, 60, 521.388.
34. (7) Kyle Petty, Dodge, 60, 521.363.
35. (24) Kevin Lesage, Dodge, 60, 521.363.
36. (15) Mike Bliss, Chevrolet, 60, 521.368.
37. (23) Johnny Sauter, Dodge, 54 engine.
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55. (7) Kyle Petty, Dodge, 60, 521.363.
56. (24) Kevin Lesage, Dodge, 60, 521.363.
57. (15) Mike Bliss, Chevrolet, 60, 521.368.
58. (23) Johnny Sauter, Dodge, 54 engine.
59. (25) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, 60, 521.368.
60. (26) Stanton Barrett, Chevrolet, 60, 521.368.

### Race Statistics

Time of Race 1 hour, 4 minutes, 5 seconds.

Margin of Victory 0.030 seconds.

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## Tuberville signs seven-year contract with Auburn

The Associated Press

AUBURN, Ala. — Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville has signed a new seven-year contract that will pay him \$2 million this year and increase by \$200,000 each successive year.

Tuberville and the school agreed in principle to the deal in December, about a week before the Tigers completed a 13-0 season with a 16-13 victory over Virginia Tech in the Sugar Bowl.

The contract announced Thursday by the school will pay Tuberville a base salary of \$210,000, with the remainder coming from endorsements and radio and television deals. Tuberville's previous package was worth \$1.5 million.

### Sports briefs

Auburn's buyout and Tuberville's penalty for leaving is \$7 million for the first two years of the contract, \$6 million for 2007-08, \$5 million for 2009, \$4 million for 2010 and \$3 million for 2011.

Tuberville is 51-24 in six seasons at Auburn. Last season, he led the No. 2 Tigers to the most victories in school history.

### Winless Savannah State fires basketball coach

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Savannah State coach Ed Daniels was fired Thursday, three days after the Ti-

gers became the second NCAA Division I team in the past 50 years to have a winless season.

Savannah State finished the season 0-28 after a 49-44 loss to Florida A&M on Monday night. Prairie View, which went 0-28 in 1991-92, is the only other Division I team in the past half century to go winless.

Southern Mississippi went 0-24 in 1971-72, but that was one of three seasons that it had been stripped of Division I status because the NCAA objected to its race schedule. The Citadel was 0-17 in 1984-85.

### Austrian Walchofer wins men's World Cup downhill

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCH-

EN, Germany — Austrian Michael Walchofer won a men's World Cup downhill race Friday, with countryman Herman Maier second and American Bode Miller third.

Walchofer charged down the Kandahar course in 1 minute, 57.79 seconds to win the first World Cup race since the Alpine world ski championships ended last Sunday.

Maier, winner of the giant slalom in the world championships in Bormio, Italy, finished 99 seconds behind Walchofer.

### Munich won't bid for 2014 Winter Games

BERLIN — The city of Munich will not bid to host the 2014 Winter Olympics.

The decision was made Friday during a meeting attended by the German national Olympic committee chairman, Germany's ministers for sports and other officials.

Last month, Germany's Olympic committee failed to endorse Munich's candidacy, saying the city needed to prepare a more detailed proposal. The committee suggested a bid for the 2018 Games.

### '98 World Cup star Djorkaeff to play for MetroStars

PARIS — Youst Djorkaeff, 36, a member of the French team that won the 1998 World Cup and 2000 European championship, has signed with the MetroStars of Major League Soccer.



# SPORTS



Finding new enthusiasm under McHale, Timberwolves defeat Cavaliers, Page 40

## All for one



Illinois' Deron Williams, center, and his teammates get ready to take on Wisconsin on Feb. 12. The team, in its 11th straight week ranked No. 1, calls itself a family and says having fun together off the court shows how well they play together on it.

BY NANCY ARMOUR  
The Associated Press

With no 'star',  
Illini finds  
off-court  
bonding  
contributes  
to team unity,  
successful run  
atop rankings

**T**he folks at Old Orchard Lanes have gotten used to seeing Illinois basketball players stop by over the years. It's usually only a player or two at a time, enough to draw attention at the small bowling alley south of campus but not so big a crowd to create a stir.

These days, though, something's different. The Illini still bowl, only now they do it in bunches. Seeing five or six members of the country's No. 1 team together is a given, and the group is sometimes even bigger than that.

"You'd think with a group of guys that spend that much time together, that they'd argue sometimes," said Kevin Davis, a manager at Old Orchard. "They're not like that at all. They always seem like they're having fun."

That's because, well, they are. "A family. That pretty much sums it up, we're a big family," senior forward Roger Powell Jr. said. "We have fun together. We do a lot of things off the court and it shows that we fit together. I think that's why we've had success."

The Illini are in their 11th straight week at No. 1, the longest run since Kansas held the top spot for 15 weeks in 1996-97.

Illinois is the last unbeaten Division I team in the country at 26-0. The Illini are winning games by an average of 17.5 points, and have never trailed by double digits.

They've beaten seven Top 25 teams, including an 18-point rout of then-No. 1 Wake Forest that wasn't as close as the score indicated, and snapped Wisconsin's 38-game home winning streak that was the longest in the country.

Still, some people aren't quite sold. There's more talk about whether it's better for the Illini to lose a game before the NCAA tournament than their chances of becoming the first unbeaten team since the Indiana Hoosiers went 32-0 in 1975-76. Others wonder how Illinois' perfect record would hold up in the ACC.

"Everybody's waiting for us to lose, saying they think we're not the best team in the country," guard Dee Brown said. "Watch TV, they'll show you, they'll tell you. The No. 1 team? It's not us."

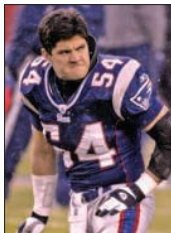
That's the beauty of the Illini, though. The reason Illinois is easy to overlook is the very thing that makes the team so special.

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Hokies shock Duke, handing No. 7 Blue Devils fourth ACC loss

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Patriots' Bruschii released from hospital after mild stroke

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Kubasaki returns to top of heap in Far East wrestling

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